

**EXHIBIT B**

Newspaper/Internet Articles  
(Amendment A)

## CRIME WATCH

---

### Fare draws a gun, cabbie bails out

KENSINGTON — A taxi driver reacted quickly early yesterday when his fare pulled a gun.

The cabbie notified a dispatcher by radio that he was in trouble, then jumped out unharmed.

The 34-year-old passenger, however, reacted more slowly. He stayed in the cab for nearly an hour until a police SWAT unit arrived and fired pepper balls at him.

Police arrested the man about 1:30 a.m. and found that his weapon was a plastic BB

gun. They took him to a county mental health facility for evaluation. Police declined to name the cabdriver or his passenger.

The cabbie said he picked up the man near Rosecrans Street shortly after midnight, according to the police report. When they approached Kensington, the passenger displayed a gun and told the driver he was going to fire it.

The cabbie abandoned his taxi on El Cajon Boulevard near 40th Street.

# Seasoned Officers

## NCSO Puts PepperBall Onto the Street in Hopes of Giving Deputies One More Option Before Deadly Force

By Henry Brean, Managing Editor

Two days after a pair of armed suspects were shot and killed by two Nye County Sheriff's Deputies in southern Pahrump Oct. 30, a dozen NCSO officers were trained in the use of a new weapon designed to subdue dangerous individuals by non-lethal means.

The timing was a coincidence, but not an unhappy one.

After all, that's the whole reason the NCSO decided to arm its officers with PepperBall launchers. "It's another intermediary step before deadly force," said Asst. Sheriff Rick Marshall, who is serving as a PepperBall instructor for the NCSO.

The launcher system--officially known as Jaycor SA200--is essentially a souped-up paintball gun. It uses compressed air to fire malleable pellets, which, in this case, are filled with micro-pulverized cayenne pepper, also known as oleoresin capsicum, or OC.

When the pellets burst, the subject is enveloped in a cloud of O.C. that immediately causes a number of physical reactions, including temporary blindness, coughing, shortness of breath, nausea, shaking and a loss of upper body motor skill. Most importantly, Marshall said, OC generally causes subjects to drop whatever they may be holding, bring their hands up to their faces and bend over toward the ground.

Of course, the use of a PepperBall launcher is not appropriate for every situation. The SA200 is only accurate to up to 30 feet when being fired at a person and up to 100 feet when being used to saturate a wider area with the ultra-fine powder. It is most useful during a standoff, when a subject has weapon such as a knife or a

crowbar and is threatening to hurt himself or others.

Marshall added during last week's training that the launchers also are "meant to cut down on SWAT call-outs and help resolve situations at the scene."

The NCSO is the first law enforcement agency in Nevada to begin using PepperBall Launchers. They are already used extensively in California, where they were developed. About 200 agencies across the country have added launchers to their arsenals, and the FBI is tracking their use in the field.

According to Marshall, a recent three-year study by the FBI found no instances of injury or death stemming from the proper use of OC. There also has never been a successful lawsuit against an agency that has used OC on a suspect in the prescribed way, Marshall said.

A total of 26 officers were certified in the use of the SA200 in a pair of training sessions held Nov. 1 and 17. PepperBall Launcher systems are already in service in Pahrump, Beatty, Tonopah, Round Mountain and Gabbs, but to date none has been used in the field.

The first nine launchers were paid for with grant money. Marshall said another 10-15 launchers would be purchased soon using another grant. Nearly 40 more will be needed for the NCSO to reach its goal of placing one launcher system in every patrol vehicle and at each detention facility in the county. Each launcher system costs between \$475 and \$500.

During the four-hour training session on Nov. 17, officers learned how to handle and

maintain the SA200, then got a chance to fire it at an inanimate target. A handful of volunteers also got to see what it feels like to be a target themselves.

Several trainees wearing protective head and neck gear and holding a metal first-aid kit over their crotches were shot with a combination of pellets filled with water and talcum powder. The kinetic impact of the shots caused most of them to flinch, shout and curse. Bruised welts immediately popped on each man who volunteered to be shot, providing a visual reminder of why officers were instructed not to fire the pellets at a suspect's head, neck or groin.

Near the end of the Nov. 17 training session, Marshall shot a number of pepper-filled rounds into the wall and the ground near the trainees so they could inhale a small amount of the powder to see its effects. That resulted in a barrage of coughs, runny noses and wet, irritated eyes.

Marshall said it is important for officers to understand the effects of OC, and not just so they know they can trust it to subdue a combative subject or stop an attacker. Some exposure during training is also important because officers learn how easily they can fall under the effects of OC if they use it improperly or allow it to be used on them by an attacker.

The stuff is so incapacitating that in some situations the FBI supports the use of deadly force against subjects who come after officers with pepper spray or other OC delivery devices. Marshall said FBI statistics show that a significant percentage of officers attacked with OC end up being killed or seriously wounded by their assailants, often with the officers' own guns.

During the training, officers also went over the NCSO's policy on the use of the launchers. For example, the launchers currently cannot be used unless there are at least two officers on scene, so that one can provide cover should deadly force prove necessary. Marshall said no one can build up an immunity to OC, but its effects may be muted somewhat by alcohol, drugs or mental illness. However, it is still considered safer and more effective than chemical agents, which do not work on up to 14 percent of the population.

Officers also went over the form they must fill out any time they use a launcher in the field. Separate from the report that is completed after any use of force, the launcher-specific form seeks details on why it was used and how it worked. The information is being gathered for use in studies of the weapon.

PepperBall Launchers join a host of other tools the NCSO employs for applying non-deadly force.

Most NCSO deputies already carry pepper spray while on patrol. One officer estimated the spray gets used an average of once every two months somewhere in the county.

Marshall said pepper spray is used less now than when the NCSO first put it in service roughly a decade ago. The reason, he suspects, is that more criminals are familiar the effects of OC, either through first-hand exposure or by word of mouth.

With any luck, the same thing will happen with the PepperBall Launcher, Marshall said. "Realistically, we know they'll eventually get used. What we're actually hoping is that word will get out about them."

Among the other non-lethal weapons employed by the NCSO are batons, beanbag rounds and even rubber bullets. Then there are good, old-fashioned empty hands. Of course, all of those items also can be used to deliver a lethal blow, as could a PepperBall launcher if used improperly. That's why officers always review the NCSO policy on the use of force any time they are trained in new tactics and equipment. "That way, there is no question in anyone's mind about what is expected of them," Marshall said.





## news

Front page  
AP headlines  
Area news  
West Volusia  
Neighborhood  
Business  
Environment  
Obituaries  
Politics  
Special Reports  
Sports  
Technology

## search

Story Archives

## tech links

Dr DOS  
C/NET  
PC Magazine  
TechWeb  
WinMag  
ZDNet  
Download.com

				credit report online
				powered by <b>EQUIFAX</b> <b>click here</b>



Thursday, October 12, 2000



Printer  
friendly  
version



Discuss  
this  
article



Email  
this  
article

# Refining confinement: High tech prison reform

By Charlotte Moore  
Cox News Service

AUSTIN, Texas - Pigs love slop. Any farmer will tell you that farm animals go crazy for that indiscernible glob of decomposed food discarded behind institutional cafeterias and restaurants.

Correctional facilities offer especially good pickings. They've been known to bequeath their accumulation of slop to pig farmers. The farmer pulls up to the rear of the prison cafeteria with his slop wagon or pickup and proceeds to haul barrelsful of rank swill into his rig. Until recently, correctional officers were the unfortunate ones charged with having to inspect the load before the farmer was given the OK to pull off. Using broom handles or long pipes, guards would swish and poke through the slop to ensure that an inmate hadn't immersed himself in the waste in an attempt to escape.

Inconceivably, one such episode involved a Texas prisoner who, breathing through a makeshift snorkel, succeeded in making it out of the gate in the back of a slop-filled truck. His freedom was short-lived; he was soon apprehended. But the incident was significant enough to prompt officials to modernize their slop-truck inspection procedure.

Enter a device they call a heartbeat monitor. Before any oversized vehicle pulls into or away from the prison gate, sensors that can detect the slightest movement - from gasoline settling in the gas tank to the brisk telltale ba-dum-ba-dum-ba-dum of an over-anxious heartbeat - are placed on each axle of the conveyance. The sensors are wired to a monitor and show up as lines on a computer screen. A flatline means no movement is detected, and the guard will wave the vehicle through. Any fluctuation of that line after a series of runs, and the guards will proceed to manually inspect the interior of the vehicle.

The heartbeat monitor is one of the first technological investments made by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice under the newly formed Technology Review Team. The TRT, which operates out of Huntsville, was formalized in the summer of 1998 after Wayne Scott, TDCJ's executive director, began visualizing his department using the latest law enforcement technologies to complement correctional officers.

"Technology offers our industry a challenge," said Charles Marsh, TRT chairman. "Do we build newer, higher fences? Do we put more razor ribbon up? Or do we buy a new camera system? These are the questions we ask. How can we use technology to supplement our staffing and provide for a safer

environment for our correctional officers and inmates?"

Marsh is quick to point out that the latest in security technology comes at great cost. Camera systems, metal and narcotic detection equipment, nonlethal chemical agents, body armor and other paraphernalia sound great, but are they practical purchases for the financially exhausted governmental agency?

"Technology may offer a fix, but at hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said. "These are the balancing decisions that our Technology Review Team professionals need to be able to make."

#### HEAD OF THE TEAM

Simon Beardsley, 33, is your archetypical good ol' boy . . . almost. This Canadian-born fella, who spent a portion of his youth in Nottingham, England, was transplanted to Texas in the late 1980s where he quickly rose from the ranks of correctional officer to his current high-profile position as technology review coordinator of the TRT. The team is comprised of several people - including the executive director, the chair, security executives and various division heads - and meets quarterly to view vendor presentations and decide which new items to purchase. Representatives from smaller states, whose departments of corrections may not have the budgets to accommodate formal tech teams of their own, routinely come down and participate.

"We look at new and emerging technologies in the security field - chemical agents, weapons, all sorts of things," Beardsley said.

Vendors from all over the country convene in Huntsville for these meetings, taking advantage of one full workday to show off their latest weapons, equipment and interactive systems. Then a vote is conducted by the voting members of the TRT to determine which products should be seriously considered for state departments or correctional units. It's easy for departments to find themselves way over budget after purchasing industry-popular products with names like the PepperBall Launcher, The Sentinel Contraband Detection Portal and the Body Orifice Security Scanner.

"It's an extremely competitive market, cutthroat like you wouldn't believe," Beardsley said. "We've spent, easily, \$500,000 just in the last month or two."

Because he is still seeking bids for his department's latest purchases, Beardsley couldn't discuss specific items. However, he did say everything from stab-resistant armor to personal body alarms are being secured.

#### SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

"Our Personal Alarm Locating System (PALS9000) could cost anywhere from \$60,000 to upwards of half a million dollars," said Ari Shore, device president of Colorado-based Actall Corporation, provider of integrated wireless security systems. The PALS9000 consists of a radio frequency handheld device about the size of a micro-cassette recorder that features a panic button, a pull cord and a man-down alarm. The system is designed to help back-up personnel locate a person in distress - an officer being attacked by an inmate, for instance. One might surmise that this type of safeguard technology would have already been mandatory.

"It's getting there," said Shore. "The security life-safety industry is relatively new because of things like cost effectiveness and product reliability. There were variations of these products as far back as 20 or 30 years ago, but what we're seeing now in security technology is just starting to peak - mainly

"We're seeing now in security technology, it's just starting to peak. Mainly because of the types of things we're seeing happening in prisons. The need is there now that wasn't there before."

December's fatal stabbing of an officer in Texas' McConnell Unit prompted officials to look into purchasing more effective body armor. "... An extremely unfortunate reaction," said Beardsley, who is more up beat about the recent acquisition of 27,000 stab-resistant vests manufactured by Protective Apparel Corporation of America. The vests are made out of Kevlar, an organic fiber that, on a weight-to-weight ratio, is stronger than steel. Each vest costs \$600, but the product is flexible and lightweight, affording officers much-needed protection as well as mobility.

"These guys aren't going to wear these vests for eight hours straight unless they're comfortable," Beardsley said.

The McConnell stabbing might not have been fatal had the correctional system been structured to outfit its personnel in anticipation of these types of events. But departments of correction are notoriously reactionary organizations. Prisons aren't like trendy dot-coms or traditional power corps filled with forward-thinking innovators. While many industries have the luxury of being proactive, departments of corrections are simply trying to manage very sensitive human relationships and handle staggering amounts of inmates. According to TDCJ's last count, in Texas prisons and state jails alone there are approximately 150,000 inmates.

"I'm not sure we can take a piece of equipment and replace the correctional officer and that interaction between human beings," Marsh said. "Technology is never going to really replace that."

Yet, maybe out of necessity, the country's prison system is proving that high-tech is as effective on lock-down as it is in the free world. This might explain why some facilities are eagerly spending millions of dollars to upgrade out-of-date systems and procedures.

## TWIN TOWERS

"California has been a pioneer in this particular endeavor," said Marsh. "We actually looked at their technology review processes and patterned ours after theirs."

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Web site touts the Twin Towers Correctional Facility - two vertical structures, stretching a commanding 185 feet tall on a 10-acre patch of land - as being the world's largest jail. The almost \$400 million project sounds more like an enhanced version of a Warner Bros. futuristic correctional matrix than a jail. Instead of bars, the maximum-security facility has glass doors; all locks are automatic with the option of manual override. State-of-the-art camera equipment is strategically placed throughout the buildings, even in the inmate elevators. An intercom system allows officers to communicate directly with inmates in their cells or with groups of inmates in dedicated recreational areas. Using a panoptical design that enables a comprehensive 270-degree panoramic view of the inmates, a module control officer can see into 96 cells from his physical position, at a glance. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning are controlled by a state-of-the-art computer system. The air in each individual cell can be manipulated from the module control booth; in emergency situations pepper spray or gas can be automatically introduced into individual cells. The facility utilizes electronic fingerprint scanning and an automatic fire warning system, and the buildings are compliant with the American Disabilities Act, with dedicated areas and spaces for disabled employees and inmates.

"Our facility looks like the Star Trek Enterprise," said Lieut. Robert Hudson. "Moving inmates from floor to floor has the potential to be very labor intensive; our monitoring systems allow us to take control from our command center."

Hudson is even more impressed with the administrative improvements he's seen at the Twin Towers facility.

"We were the the state's guinea pig; the first unit to go online," Hudson said. "We have a state-of-the-art computer network and a computer on every deputy's workstation. We have servers, access to the Internet for research, and we have an Intranet system within the Sheriff's Department. I still feel that we're a little behind the times, but what we have works great."

## PRISONS OF THE FUTURE

Thanks to sensational television reports and magazine spreads, we mentally silhouette maximum-security facilities against an eerie green glow produced by all the high-tech machinery at work behind the building's menacing walls.

"We do use some technologies that other facilities do not," said Blake Davis, public information officer for the U.S. Penitentiary's super maximum facility in Florence, Colo. "But it's not so much about the technology; it's the amount of technology. Maximum-security prisons will have a lot more cameras, many more slow-down gates or more razor wire than your regular prison facility."

Davis describes the maximum-security facilities as operating very much like a typical corporate network, utilizing interoffice software programs, pager and cell-phone systems, and typical voice and electronic mail service.

"Everyone is always looking for us to have some kind of amazing electronic device or computer system," Davis said. "There are tons of different nonlethal weapons that companies are putting out - from gas balls to shock shields. But in this industry everything is people-based. We don't use specially designed cuffs; rather we use regular cuffs and hire more staff."

Still, more and more prisons are using the type of gadgets about which we like to fantasize. Like the PepperBall Launcher, a device similar to a paintball gun, that fires .68-caliber balls filled with a disabling pepper powder. PepperBall Launchers are currently being piloted in numerous United States facilities.

And new thermal imagers - devices with the capability to detect heat force for up to 10 seconds after the source has moved on.

Then there are the ionospectrometry devices that can detect trace amounts of narcotics, such as Barringer Technology's newly released Sentinel Contraband Detection Portal, a walkthrough device that can identify up to 30 different types of explosives, drugs or chemical warfare agents.

"The Sentinel is in the \$100,000 range," said Kenneth Wood, president of Barringer. "Our technology is getting smaller, lighter and less expensive, though. We also have handheld detectors at \$20,000 per product - a little more doable for a lot of the budgets. But the dollar tag is a drop in the bucket when you're considering what these products can do to keep drugs or a bomb out of your facility."

The B.O.S.S. (Body Orifice Security Scanner) chair is growing in popularity among correctional facilities. An inmate sits down in the chair, and the high-

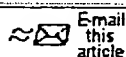
sensitivity device detects metal objects hidden in body cavities.

While law enforcement officials admit these new security tech gadgets are spectacular, they still contend it's the staffperson behind the technology that truly manages a prison facility.

"People think of prisons simply as large fenced-in areas with guards walking amongst the prisoners," said Davis. "In these communities, there are plumbers and teachers and wardens and physicians' assistants and dentists. It's the training of the staff, the procedures they follow, the communication with the inmates; these are the overriding mechanisms that keep our prisons safe, not the technology."

Back in Huntsville, the sentiment is the same. And officials in Texas are dealing with a much broader organization than many states; Texas has 115 prison units, whereas other states may have as few as five. Upgrading each of these prison facilities is a tedious job.

"Our technology review board has only been in existence for about two years," Marsh said. "We are having to explain ourselves to our own internal folks, the wardens and the regional directors, but we've had fun with it. The board will hopefully be somewhat of a legacy that (Wayne) Scott can leave behind; the idea that he was visionary enough to think that we could take advantage of some of the technological opportunities available."



*Do you faint and don't know why?*

© 2001 News-Journal Corp. ® news-journalonline.com

# Local

MARION CHRONICLE-TRIBUNE / SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2000 / A3

## Police officers attend training.

Group learns proper use of PepperBall gun

BY STAFF WRITER  
RYAN BENTLEY

Some Grant County sheriff's deputies returned home from work Friday with numerous welts on their bodies.

The officers were part of a group that attended a day-long session at the Grant County Jail to learn the proper use of PepperBall Launchers.

The compressed-air-powered weapons are useful for ending potentially violent situations without causing serious injury, said sheriff's Capt. Mike Ross.

The launchers, available in semiautomatic and fully automatic versions, can fire plastic projectiles contain-

ing powdered cayenne pepper, Ross said.

The combination of pain from the impact of being struck by a pepper ball and the eye and respiratory irritation from the pepper mixture can temporarily incapacitate a person who is threatening violence or involved in a disturbance, said Monte Scott, the Midwest training and sales representative for San Diego-based Jaycor, which manufactures the launchers.

"You can use it for riot control," Ross said. "You can use it for jail disturbances."

Although officers probably would not want to use the device against someone armed with a gun, Ross said it may be useful in apprehending a person carrying a knife or club.

During the training, officers were instructed to aim for their target's torso or legs rather than the face or

"You can use it for riot control. You can use it for jail disturbances."

—Mike Ross,  
sheriff's captain

neck, Ross said.

The effects of the pain and irritant powder normally last for about 10 minutes, he added. The impact of a projectile usually leaves a welt or bruise that remains on the body for about two weeks.

During Friday's training, Scott also provided classroom instruction in the use of the launchers and gave the 24 participating officers a chance to fire the weapons at body silhouette targets in the jail's outdoor recreation area.

Some of the officers

donned face and neck shields and volunteered to be targets.

"It hurts," said Deputy Dale Beck. "The first couple (times you are struck), you think you can get through. Then, they hit you with some more and the pain hits your brain."

Law enforcement officers from Noble and Vanderburgh counties, Evansville, the Indiana State Police and state Department of Correction, and sheriff's departments in Ohio and Virginia attended the PepperBall training Friday.

"It was the closest training we could find," said Lt. Tim Simpson of the Pennsylvania County Sheriff's Department in Virginia.

Simpson said he recently placed an order for one of the PepperBall Launchers and that his department may find the device useful during jail disturbances as



JEFF MOREHEAD / Photo Editor

**PLAYING THE VICTIM** — Chief Deputy Doug Harp of the Noble County Sheriff's Department, Albion, reacts Friday to the impact of powder-filled rounds fired from a PepperBall Launcher by Jaycor Tactical Systems Midwest training representative Monte Scott, right, during a training session at the Grant County Jail.

well as fights or suicide attempts involving knives or other dangerous weapons.

Ross said his department is considering a purchase of one or more of the launchers as well. Prices for the devices range from \$600 to \$1,000, Scott said.

JD  
10/16/05

marketplace:detroit

- find a car
- find a home
- find a job
- classified ads

# freep/news/wayne

Home News Sports Entertainment Money Features Opinion Community Services Marketplace

## COLUMNISTS

- [Susan Ager](#)
- [Desiree Cooper](#)
- [Brian Dickerson](#)
- [Hugh McDiarmid](#)

## SECTIONS

- [Today's stories](#)
- [Metro](#)
- [Wayne](#)
- [Oakland](#)
- [Macomb](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Casinos](#)
- [Roadwork](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Children First](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Nation/World](#)
- [AP wire](#)

## SERVICES

- [Search](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Death notices](#)
- [About us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

## MARKETPLACE

- [Classifieds](#)
- [Find a job](#)
- [Find a home](#)
- [Find a car](#)
- [Yellow Pages](#)
- [Place an ad](#)

**WIN 2 FREE  
Movie Tickets**  
• • • • •  
**to the premiere  
showing of ...**



## Police look at options in defusing standoffs

### Pepper spray among less-lethal devices

August 31, 2000

**BY BEN SCHMITT**  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The "less than lethal" alternatives are wide-ranging for officers attempting to defuse standoffs like one Detroit police faced Tuesday when confronted by an angry man with a rake.

"There's a never-ending quest for police administrators to look for the best, most humane and safest way of handling use-of-force issues," said Bruce Benson, Michigan State University's campus police chief.

Campus police, who are more likely to face unruly but not life-threatening suspects, explore all the options.

For example, Benson recently thought he had the perfect gadget for subduing campus criminals: a cylinder-type instrument that ejects a net over suspects.

## RELATED CONTENT

- [Deaf-mute shooting victim was dealt a dangerous last hand](#)
- [Father says Shaw used drugs](#)
- [Residents shouldn't share cops' familiar buzz of fear](#)
- [Another questionable shooting tests police leadership](#)

## NEW TODAY

- [Detroit Almanac: Golden oldies](#)

## SPECIALS

- [Latest area road closings, maps and information](#)
- [One week of Oakland County stories](#)
- [One week of Wayne County stories](#)
- [One week of Macomb County stories](#)
- [One week of Metro stories](#)
- [Michigan community Web links](#)

B11



But the product was recalled because sometimes it didn't properly fan out, Benson said, so they never got to test it.

Crime-fighting gizmos cross Benson's desk regularly: pepper spray bullets, tear gases, grenades full of pellets, rubber bullets, plastic or wooden batons and so on. All are designed to help police avoid firing their guns.

Detroit police, under scrutiny for its large number of police shootings and the Tuesday shooting death of a 39-year-old deaf man, use Mace spray as its option to firearms, said Police Chief Benny Napoleon. Some Detroit officers in tactical divisions carry wooden batons.

Mace is effective up to about 15 feet, Napoleon said. He said he didn't know why none of the officers at the scene used their mace to defuse the situation.

Still, "there isn't a single system that satisfies every scenario," said Sgt. Jim Gose of the Denver Police Metro SWAT team.

Pepper spray appears to be the most popular less lethal alternative for police departments, Gose said.

But about one in seven people are not disabled by pepper spray, he said.

Jim O'Leary, an Okemos civil defense attorney and coauthor of "Defensible Policies," which focuses on how police maintain order without violating constitutional rights of suspects, said there is a recognized use-of-force continuum in Michigan. Officers are allowed to use deadly force when their lives or the lives of others are threatened.

In case of Errol Shaw Sr.'s fatal shooting, O'Leary said he doesn't know all the details.

"It's hard to believe that a trained officer would use deadly force in a situation like that, as reported," he said. "It just seems like there has



to be something else for them to use deadly force, maybe the whole story hasn't come out."

The new product being eyed by Denver Police is called "pepperball" projectiles that are fired from weapons powered by a compressed air cartridge, such as a paintball gun.

Its producer, Jaycor Tactical Systems in San Diego, has sold pepperball products to hundreds of police departments nationwide and the New York City Police Department is testing it, said Roger Behrendt, the company's general manager. The Federal Bureau of Prisons and Border Patrol are also considering it, he said.

The pepper ammunition made its debut during last year's World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, Behrendt said, and was put on the market in January.

Pepperballs can be shot out of air rifles and pistols, and are accurate for up to 30 feet, said Behrendt. A projectile hits a target with 10 pounds per square-inch of pressure.

"It's so cool to be involved with a product that is going to save lives," he said.

Benson, who has a PhD in administration and supervision and teaches police operations at MSU, said there's a fine line between aggressive and patient, tolerant officers.

He cited a recent incident in which MSU police had a standoff with an assailant carrying a butcher knife. Separated from the officer by a screen door, the assailant charged them several times, but officers used pepper spray to subdue him.

"They held back and did an excellent job," he said. "But they were legally justified to use firearms in that case."

On the other hand, "it's also very possible that an officer could hesitate a little in a situation like that and either get himself or someone else injured."

Contact **BEN SCHMITT** at 313-223-4456 or [schmitt@freepress.com](mailto:schmitt@freepress.com). Suzette Hackney contributed to this report.

MORE WAYNE COUNTY STORIES

FREEP FRONT | NEWS FRONT

Comments? Questions? You can reach us at [The Freep](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Entertainment](#) [Money](#) [Features](#) [Opinion](#) [Community](#) [Services](#) [Marketplace](#)

All content © copyright 2000 Detroit Free Press and may not be republished without permission.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2000

# Pepper-ball rifle finding spot in sheriff's arsenal

■ Officer praises nonlethal advantage to weapon in resolving standoff

JO MORELAND  
STAFF WRITER

San Diego County Sheriff's deputies said they are pleased with the way the use of a new pepper-ball rifle helped stopped the Aug. 14 standoff with a woman in a van on north Interstate 15 in the first high-profile use of the less-than-lethal weapon.

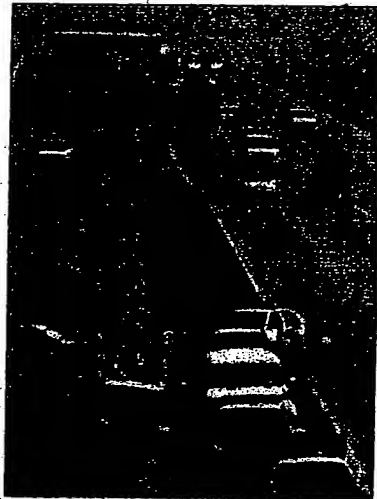
Fallbrook Deputy Alan Walbridge fired more than 30 paintball-style rounds of cayenne pepper from the semi-automatic rifle into the disabled van of Lucia Macias, 40, near Deer Springs Road, officials said.

A San Diego police officer wearing a mask was then able to safely remove Macias from the van.

"The key deal that everyone liked was that it (the pepper-ball rifle) was less lethal and no one got hurt," San Marcos sheriff's Sgt. Ben Puente said Monday. "That's what all the agencies (at the scene) liked."

Trying to reduce deadly shootings, county supervisors approved spending \$500,000 last May to buy 274 PS-SA200 PepperBall Launcher Systems and 870 shotguns that shoot beanbags, plus training guns.

Puente said he noticed two problems during the I-15 situa-



NORTH COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTO

**A Coachella woman faces a misdemeanor charge after leading police on a 25-mile chase that ended on I-15 near Fallbrook.**

## ► PEPPER

Continued from B-1.

tion. The deputy had to risk his own safety in order to keep manually firing the rifle, and two California Highway Patrol officers without masks were severely affected by the pepper spray when they opened the van doors.

He may recommend buying automatic pepper-ball rifles in future and being sure every rifle has a mask with it, Puente said.

"We'll definitely look at that," said Sgt. Charlie Campe, who is in charge of the sheriff's firearms training.

However, the department tested both types of rifles, he said. Campe said the semi-automatic rifle allows for better control of the spray and it is a little more cost-effective.

The pepper ball rifles were successfully used about 10 times in the field during the test period and once in a low-profile Vista auto theft situation, he said.

"So far, we've been very pleased," said Campe.

The pepper-ball rifles began arriving last month. The last of them will be in the field by early September, said Campe.

## Deputies arrest carjacking suspects

VISTA — Sheriff's deputies arrested seven men and teenagers in connection with a carjacking and robbery early Saturday.

Two men and a woman were in-line skating in a vacant parking lot in the 1100 block of East Bobier Drive around 1:45 a.m. when a group of about eight men surrounded them, said Sgt. Mike Hernandez. One of the suspects put a knife to one of the men's throats while the others robbed the group of their jewelry, money and car keys, he said.

The suspects then took a Nissan Sentra belonging to one of the victims, Hernandez said.

About 2:30 a.m., Deputy Dan

Settle spotted the stolen vehicle in the parking lot of an apartment complex on North Citrus Avenue, he said. Deputies decided to watch the empty car to see if the suspects would return to it. An hour later, they did.

Plainsclothes deputies watched as eight suspects got back into the car and moved it into a rear parking lot, where they began to strip it, Hernandez said.

Deputies converged on the suspects, who tried to make a run for it. Deputies then shot at the suspects with pepperball guns and set a police dog on them.

Deputies took all eight men into custody, but later released

one of the adults. Several of the men were treated for the effects of pepper spray and one suspect was bitten by the police dog in the head and leg when he hit the dog in the muzzle and refused to give up, Hernandez said.

Detectives arrested three juvenile males, ages 14, 15, 16, and four adults, Richard Castro, 21, Edward Castaneda, 21, Robert Orozco, 19, and Sergio Nunez, 24, all of Vista, Hernandez said.

They were all booked on suspicion of robbery, carjacking, auto theft, and possession of stolen property, Hernandez said. Some of the men were even wearing the victims' jewelry, he said.

— North County Times

# PepperBall Gun Passes Real-Life Test

**Sheriff decides to expand non-lethal after use in Snelling standoff**

**By Mike Conway, Bee Staff Writer**

**Snelling** – Its new PepperBall gun worked so well in subduing a man armed with a rifle Monday night that the Merced County Sheriff's Department is ordering four more Tuesday morning.

"It worked like a charm and everybody came out safe and we didn't have to shoot anybody last night," Assistant Chief Hank Strength said.

The gun fires a marble-sized ball. After it hits its target, it releases a cloud of pepper powder that produces coughing, choking, and stinging in the nose, throat, and lungs for three or four minutes.

The gun was used to subdue Leon Donald Peirce, 60, of Snelling late Monday. Peirce had allegedly shot up the walls of his mobile home with a .30-.30 rifle. Several shots went through his walls and into the mobile homes of his neighbors.

One witness said he counted more than 30 shots fired.

Sheriff's deputies, backed up by officers from Livingston, Atwater, Merced, and the California Highway Patrol, evacuated the trailer park while waiting for the SWAT team to arrive.

Peirce walked out of his trailer and sat in a chair in front of his home. Deputy Brian Miller attempted to talk Peirce into dropping the weapon, but Peirce reportedly said he needed it to protect himself "from the bad people."

Strength had brought PepperBall gun to the Snelling scene, planning to give it to the SWAT team. But when Peirce announced that he was going back inside, Strength opened fire.

"The first three rounds hit him, and the gun moved away from him," Strength said.

"And I fired a couple more rounds, and he finally dropped the gun."

Once the weapon hit the ground, officers tackled Peirce and handcuffed him.

Strength said the PepperBall gun was used because Peirce never pointed his rifle at anyone and did not make threats.

"It worked just like it was supposed to in this case," he said. "It stops us from having to kill someone."

The department has other non-lethal weapons in its arsenal, including beanbag guns. The latest addition is known as the PepperBall Launcher System, made by Jaycor Tactical Systems in San Diego. The \$675 weapon closely resembles a paint-ball gun and operates the same way. It can fire six balls per second. One canister of compressed air can fire 160 PepperBalls, which contain oleoresin capsicum, the fiery stuff in pepper.

The weapon is designed not to look like an M-16, shotgun, or other threatening weapon, Strength said. It is accurate up to 30 feet, but can also be used in dispersing crowds up to 100 feet away.

Strength said the Los Angeles Police Department purchased 1,000 of the guns to have on-hand during the Democratic National Convention next week.

Merced bought them originally for use in the jail in case of a disturbance.

"We have not had any incidents in the jail," Strength said.

Peirce is being held with bail set at \$250,000 in the Merced County Jail on charges of shooting an inhabited dwelling and obstructing or resisting a peace officer, according to Sgt. Tom Cavallero.

News

RockyMountainNews.com

Keyword Navigation:

 **Go!**  
[Click for a list of keywords](#)

## News

Columbine  
 JonBenet  
 Election 2000  
 Homeless murders  
 Legislature  
 Nation  
 World  
 Sci/Tech  
 Religion  
 Columnists  
 Opinion  
 Denver Square  
 Births  
 Weddings  
 Obituaries  
 Weather  
 Lottery

## Business

## Sports

## Recreation

## Going Out

## Staying In

## Autos

## Careers

## Homes

## Classifieds

# Another Eye Surgery

[E-Mail This](#) | [Print This](#)

## Denver considers non-lethal police guns

Device that launches plastic balls offers less violent option

By **John C. Ensslin**  
 Denver Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Denver police are looking at using non-lethal alternatives to bullets — including a device that shoots hard plastic balls filled with a peppery powder.

Police from several metro agencies will train in Denver next week with a weapon known as PepperBall.

A launcher that looks like an old-fashioned Tommy gun can fire up to 200 rounds from 30 feet away with slightly less velocity than a paint ball gun, according to the weapon's manufacturer.

About 140 law enforcement agencies nationwide have adopted the system, including the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, said Craig Beery, a spokesman for Jaycor Tactical Systems, the San Diego-based manufacturer.

"Everybody's trying to reduce liability and make it safer for police officers to do their job," Beery said.

The product came on the market in December 1999 and underwent its first major test during the World Trade Organization riot in Seattle.

Ed Vassel, one of the scientists who developed the weapon, drew some of his motivation from the May 1970 fatal shooting of four students at Kent State University.

He was a student that day and absorbed some tear gas during the clash with the Ohio National Guard.

"You never forget something like that," Vassel said. The experience motivated him "to give law enforcement and National Guard more options for civil unrest."

Denver police spokesman Tony Lombard said the department has not made any commitments to any product.

He said patrol officers do not have access to less-than-lethal technology such as stun guns and beanbag firing weapons.

[Most in state call prairie dogs pests](#)

[Overhaul urged for foster care in state](#)

[Pony Fire not in control](#)

[Homeowners group gets hefty bill for fire](#)

[Denver considers non-lethal police guns](#)

[Council members: Webb trying to ramrod plan](#)

[Beltway plan goes belly up](#)

[Polar cubs Ulag, Berit christened Cincinnati-style](#)

[Westminster man held in Net sex sting](#)

[Inmates staff phone line that field queries to state secretary](#)

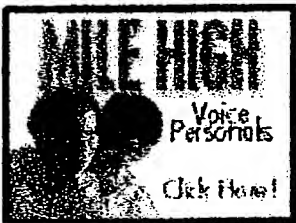
[Pine residents want group home meeting at friendlier time](#)

[Pipe bomb left in book drop at branch library](#)

[Community harvest](#)

[Suburban briefs](#)

[Regional briefs](#)



Sell in  
 30 days  
 or get  
 30 days  
 free



If the department does opt to buy from Jaycor, Lombard said, its initial purchase would be limited to about 10 guns, so officers can test the weapon on the job.

"We're not jumping into this with both feet," he said.

Contact John Ensslin at (303) 892-5291 or at [ensslinj@RockyMountainNews.com](mailto:ensslinj@RockyMountainNews.com).

August 8, 2000

#### More Options...

[News](#)  
[Weather](#)  
[Opinion](#)  
[Nation](#)  
[World](#)  
[Sci/Tech](#)  
[Births](#)  
[Weddings](#)  
[Deaths](#)

[Business](#)  
[Stocks](#)  
[Bank Rates](#)

[Sports](#)  
[Broncos](#)  
[Avalanche](#)  
[Nuggets](#)  
[Rockies](#)  
[College](#)  
[RockyPreps](#)

[Recreation](#)  
[Snow Rept.](#)  
[Hiking](#)  
[Biking](#)  
[Fishing](#)  
[Golf](#)  
[Calendar](#)  
[Dentry](#)

[Going Out](#)  
[Movies](#)  
[Dining](#)  
[Music](#)  
[On Stage](#)  
[Books](#)  
[Travel](#)

[Staying In](#)  
[TV](#)  
[Health](#)  
[Cookbook](#)  
[Garden](#)  
[Crossword](#)

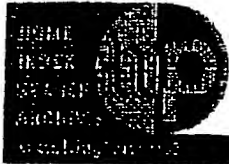
[Classified](#)  
[Place an ad](#)  
[Auto](#)  
[Careers](#)  
[Homes](#)



[User Agreement](#) / [Privacy Statement](#)

© Copyright, Denver Publishing Co.  
[Subscribe](#) to the News  
Questions? Comments? [Talk to Us](#)

Pepper Spray Guns Eyed for DNC Cops

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-s...ne/20000725/aponline115501\\_000.h](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-s...ne/20000725/aponline115501_000.h)

PRINT EDITION TOP NEWS WORLD NATION POLITICS METRO BUSINESS & TECH HEALTH OPINION WEATHER

Partner Sites:

• [Newyweek.com](http://Newyweek.com)• [Britannica Internet Guide](http://Britannica.com)

## Pepper Spray Guns Eyed for DNC Cops

By Tom Verdin

Associated Press Writer

Tuesday, July 25, 2000; 11:55 a.m. EDT

LOS ANGELES — Police dealing with protesters at the Democratic National Convention may be armed with paintball guns that shoot balls filled with pepper spray.

The balls, as big around as a nickel, would be used only against protesters who are violent or destroying property, a police spokesman said. He said the Police Department had ordered the guns but no decision had been reached on whether they would be deployed during the Aug. 14-17 convention.

Paintball is a war game in which players use high-powered air guns, firing capsules filled with water-based paint. Instead of paint, the police would use the pepper spray.

Pepper spray canisters are standard issue, but using the guns would allow police to hit from a distance, Sgt. John Pasquariello said Monday. "It's a very accurate weapon ... so you can pinpoint people, and then an arrest team would move in," he said.

Using the guns would be important, he said, "because we are certainly outnumbered in a mass demonstration situation and we need tools that can control a large number of people without hurting them."

Balls fired from a stock paintgun travel about 240 feet per second, leaving a welt when they strike someone's skin, said Matt Boggs, a gun technician at I&I Sports in Carson, which sells paintball equipment.

Participants playing at licensed paintball fields are required to wear face and eye protection, he said.

Police are aware of the injury risk, but officers who use non-lethal weapons, such as beanbag-firing shotguns, are trained to fire at a person's torso and avoid his head, Pasquariello said.

Protest organizers criticized potential use of the paintball guns, saying the weapons could inflame a crowd rather than quiet it.

"Police tactics can seriously escalate situations that don't need to be escalated, and that's why everybody is calling on them to use restraint," said Lisa Fithian of Direct Action Network, an advocacy group formed during the World Trade Organization protests last year in Seattle.

HP FAX

FROM:

DATE:

TO:

DEPT:

CO:

FAX:

TO: PEPPER BALL



# The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

## LAPD may pepper protesters

Paintball guns firing balls of the stuff eyed for Demo gathering

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**LOS ANGELES** — Police officers facing Democratic convention protesters next month may be armed with paintball guns that shoot balls filled with pepper spray.

The balls, as big around as a nickel, would be used only against people who are violent or destroying property — not against peaceful demonstrators — a police spokesman said yesterday.

Pepper spray canisters are standard issue for all officers, but paintball guns would allow police to strike specific troublemakers from a safe distance, said Sgt. John Pasquariello. Also, police wouldn't need to worry about wind dispersing a spray.

"It's a very accurate weapon. ... You can pinpoint people, and then an arrest team would move in," he said.

Using the guns would be important, he said, "because we are certainly outnumbered in a mass demonstration situation and we need tools that can control a large number of people without hurting them."

Pasquariello said the department has ordered paintball guns but he did not know if they had arrived or if officers had been trained to use them. A final decision on whether they will be deployed during the Aug. 14-17 Democratic

National Convention has not been reached.

Pasquariello would not say how many guns were ordered.

Paintball is a war game in which players stalk each other with high-powered air guns, firing capsules of water-based paint. A stock gun that holds up to 10 balls costs \$50 to \$250 and semiautomatic models sell for up to \$800, said Matt Boggs, a gun technician at I&I Sports in Carson.

The balls have a biodegradable gel-like shell. Instead of paint, however, the projectiles being considered by police would be filled with pepper spray.

Balls fired from a stock paint gun travel about 240 feet per second, leaving a welt the size of a quarter when they strike the skin.

Participants playing at licensed paintball fields are required to wear face and eye protection, he said.

Police are aware of the injury risk, but officers who use nonlethal weapons, such as beanbag-firing shotguns, are trained to fire at the torso and avoid the head, Pasquariello said.

"You want to aim for the chest," he said.

When the capsule bursts, the pepper spray drifts up to the nose and eyes.

Protest organizers criticized potential use of the paintball guns, saying the weapons could inflame a crowd rather than quiet it.

# The San Diego Union-Tribune.

Sunday, July 23, 2000

## Convention enmity gets early start



Protesters attended a civil disobedience training camp near Malibu in preparation for the Democratic National Convention. *The New York Times*

### Activists, L.A. police spar over logistics

By Matt Krasnowski  
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Apprehension is building as the Democratic National Convention approaches.

The anxiety has nothing to do with the business of the convention, but what could happen on the streets outside the Staples Center.

Anywhere from 30,000 to 50,000 demonstrators may descend upon downtown Los Angeles shortly before the convention opens Aug. 14. They will be using banners, placards, large puppets — and possibly crowbars and other weapons — to make their statement on everything from environmental problems to the impact of the global economy.

They will face thousands of police officers, many in riot gear and carrying tear gas.

The fears are many. Will the demonstrators upstage Vice President Al Gore as he becomes the official

Will Los Angeles look like Seattle did when anarchists damaged buildings during the World Trade Organization meeting last year?

Maybe not, but police are preparing for the worst.

"We fully expect to be involved in mass arrests and civil disobedience with a ... very small yet very effective element of demonstrators even before the convention begins," said Los Angeles police Cmdr. Tom Lorenzen, the city's convention security point man. "We anticipate a level of activity similar to what we saw in Seattle, if indeed not more intense."

Weeks before the convention, protesters already are blaming police for any violence that occurs.

"We are a nonviolent movement," said Lisa Flithlan, an organizer with the Direct Action Network, a group that was involved in the Seattle protests. "The only reason it's going to look like Seattle is if the police overreact and get out of control. ... It's the police, especial-

reputation, that we need to be concerned about."

Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks, whose department was criticized for how it handled violence after the Lakers' basketball championship, says his officers will be restrained in dealing with protesters "until the crowd chooses to do something illegal."

"We do not want anyone to believe that in coming to an event in the city of LA that they're in an armed camp," Parks said. "So we have to react to the demonstrators (and) what they do when there are violations of law."

Even though the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia precedes the Democratic convention, there could be twice the number of protesters on the streets of Los Angeles, law-enforcement officials and demonstrators say.

But others expect a smaller protest contingent. Several major labor organizations made it

take part in the Los Angeles protests because they do not want to embarrass Gore. Union members bolstered the ranks of Seattle protesters, who were estimated at 45,000.

Still, the pre-convention rhetoric has been hot for weeks. Among other things, protest groups, politicians and police have been sparring over where demonstrators can express themselves.

Earlier this month, police put on a camera-ready performance of how they would react to law-violating protesters. Protest groups then invited reporters to a camp where demonstrators were trained in how to deal with overreacting police.

And just hours after it moved into its temporary headquarters west of downtown, the Direct Action Network received an unannounced visit from Los Angeles police officers, who said they were checking on the safety of the building and wanted to know the group's intentions during the convention.

The Direct Action Network is part of a coalition of about 200 activist organizations that calls itself the Campaign to Protest the Democratic National Convention 2000 in Los Angeles — or the D2KLA Network.

While some protesters are vowing in writing to not destroy property, others say they do not consider it violent if they break some windows.

City officials clearly were jarred by police videotapes of the Seattle riots that showed self-styled anarchists bashing

windows, overrunning a Starbucks and fighting with other demonstrators.

"I think this city may regret the day that it ever voted to bring this convention here," said City Councilman Hal Bernson.

The D2KLA Network is so orchestrated that its plans include a protest theme for each day of the convention. These include "human need, not corporate greed" day and one that focuses on police brutality and the death penalty.

Los Angeles police have been preparing for the convention for about a year and observed how police in Washington, D.C., successfully handled protesters there at the World Bank/International Monetary Fund meetings in April.

The department is sending observers to Philadelphia to watch how police there deal with protesters at the Republican National Convention.

The department has been mum on specific tactics it will employ, but some of those plans were revealed in Sacramento when the department sought additional convention cash from the Assembly.

Among the items on the department's wish list were 40 launchers to fire 20,000 pepper balls, 20 40mm tear-gas guns, a \$2,400 paper shredder, mountain climbing equipment, bomb detectors and bolt cutters.

Some of the expenditures were stopped by Sen. Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles, who first gained notoriety as a prosecuted protester at the tumultuous 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Legislators approved the climbing equipment, meant to get protesters off buildings; bomb detectors; and bolt cut-

ters, to help set free activists chained to buildings or each other. The pepper balls, launchers and shredder were rejected.

Lorenzen expects the most trouble at the border of the yet-to-be-determined security zone, where the public area begins.

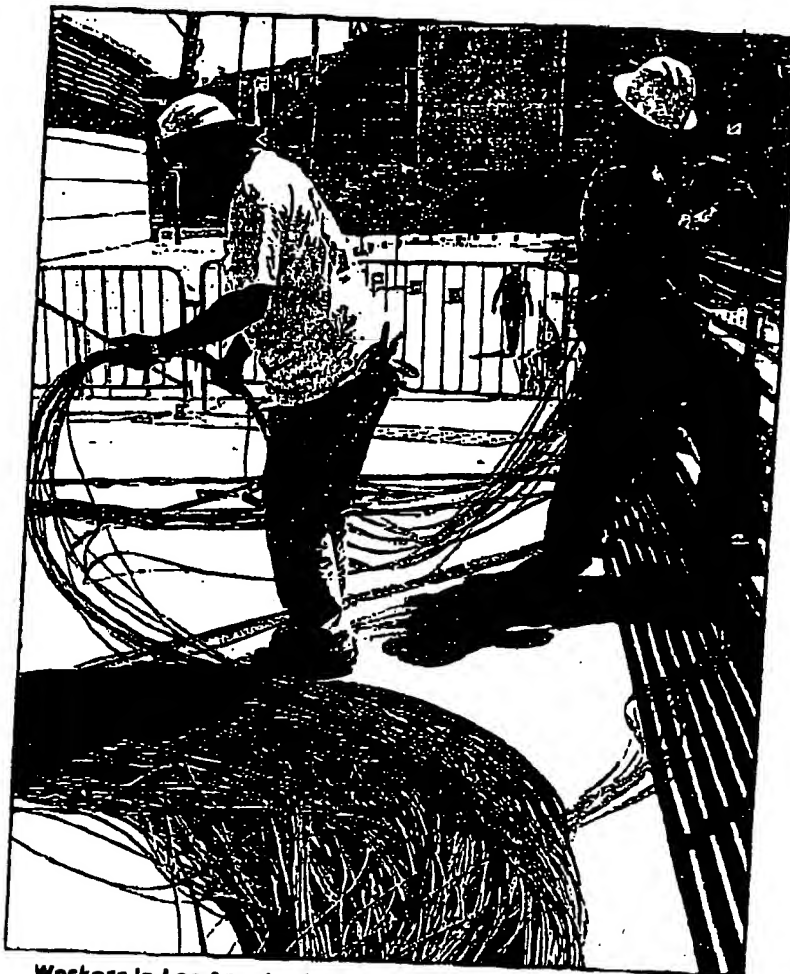
He said the Police Department's worst fear is that 1,500 to 2,000 "hard-core" anarchists will conceal themselves among the thousands of peaceful demonstrators and "run helter-skelter through the streets of Los Angeles."

Law-enforcement officials planned that the security zone around the Staples Center would be roughly 10 square blocks so that protesters were more than 200 yards away from delegates.

But a federal judge ruled Thursday that the zone violated First Amendment rights by unreasonably restricting the public's chances of communicating with convention delegates. The city now may allow demonstrators on the sidewalks across the street from the Staples Center entrance.

The City Council recently suggested downtown's Pershing Square could be used for demonstrations, too, and then backtracked after area businesses and police complained. Nevertheless, Vice President Al Gore, who was set to stay at the Regal Biltmore Hotel, across the street from the park, now will stay elsewhere. Hotel spokesman Steve Haller said Gore's move has more to do with traffic concerns than protesters.

If Los Angeles police are looking for help with convention-protesting vandals, one activist who will be picketing during the convention says he is on



Workers in Los Angeles installed communication cables at Staples Center to prepare for the Democratic National Convention. *Monica Almeida / The New York Times*

their side.

Ted Hayes, leader of the Homeless Convention and director of the Dome Village homeless encampment near Staples Center, plans to take his own action against people destroying property, taunting police and distracting the media from focusing on his issue.

"We expect these white, upper-class, higher-educated kids to respect us," Hayes said. "Nobody knows the effects of

the global economy worse than the homeless."

Hayes said he is collecting contributions to purchase video cameras that he will assign to some of the legions of homeless.

"When a fight breaks out, we're going to film it to see who starts the fight, the police or these so-called anarchists.... If you come here, you're going to behave yourself."

Pepper Spray Guns Eyed for DNC Cops

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-s...ne/20000725/aponline115501\\_000.htm](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-s...ne/20000725/aponline115501_000.htm)

PRINT EDITION TOP NEWS WORLD NATION POLITICS METRO BUSINESS & TECH HEALTH OPINION WEATHER

## Pepper Spray Guns Eyed for DNC Cops

Partner Sites:

- [Newsweek.com](http://Newsweek.com)- [Britannica Internet Guide](http://Britannica.com)

By Tom Verdin

Associated Press Writer

Tuesday, July 25, 2000; 11:55 a.m. EDT

LOS ANGELES — Police dealing with protesters at the Democratic National Convention may be armed with paintball guns that shoot balls filled with pepper spray.

The balls, as big around as a nickel, would be used only against protesters who are violent or destroying property, a police spokesman said. He said the Police Department had ordered the guns but no decision had been reached on whether they would be deployed during the Aug. 14-17 convention.

Paintball is a war game in which players use high-powered air guns, firing capsules filled with water-based paint. Instead of paint, the police would use the pepper spray.

Pepper spray canisters are standard issue, but using the guns would allow police to hit from a distance, Sgt. John Pasquariello said Monday. "It's a very accurate weapon ... so you can pinpoint people, and then an arrest team would move in," he said.

Using the guns would be important, he said, "because we are certainly outnumbered in a mass demonstration situation and we need tools that can control a large number of people without hurting them."

Balls fired from a stock paintgun travel about 240 feet per second, leaving a welt when they strike someone's skin, said Matt Boggs, a gun technician at I&I Sports in Carson, which sells paintball equipment.

Participants playing at licensed paintball fields are required to wear face and eye protection, he said.

Police are aware of the injury risk, but officers who use non-lethal weapons, such as beanbag-firing shotguns, are trained to fire at a person's torso and avoid his head, Pasquariello said.

Protest organizers criticized potential use of the paintball guns, saying the weapons could inflame a crowd rather than quiet it.

"Police tactics can seriously escalate situations that don't need to be escalated, and that's why everybody is calling on them to use restraint," said Lisa Fithian of Direct Action Network, an advocacy group formed during the World Trade Organization protests last year in Seattle.

TO: PEPPER BALL

DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

CO: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

HP FAX



## Pepper Bullets: Deterrence Without Death?

### Inside News & Sports

[Lottery](#)

[Sports Scores](#)

[Sports](#)

[Weather](#)

[Hot Issues Main](#)

[News & Sports Main](#)

### Sound Off

[Message Board](#)



Police in many U.S. cities -- including San Diego and Seattle -- are now using pepper bullets as a non-lethal alternative to real bullets. The pepper bullets explode after striking a suspect, sending up an irritating cloud of pepper dust that leaves most people begging for mercy. PepperBall was put to the test during the World Trade Organization meeting riots in Seattle, and by San Diego police during a recent "suicide-by-cop" attempt. [Read the details](#) and then tell us [what you think](#) about the pepper bullets.

**Do you think products like PepperBall will cut down on the use of lethal force by police?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I'm not sure

### What do you think?

Do you approve of the use of PepperBall? Do you think it will cut down on the number of shootings by police? Is there any danger in police using PepperBall or similar products?

Your nickname:

Your email (optional):

Your message: (1000 character limit)

▲

▼

Digital City comment boards are aimed at encouraging free and open discussion. Those posting are expected to take responsibility for their comments. Threats, defamatory accusations, vulgarity and the like are not permitted.

### Our Advertisers



## Pepper Bullets: Deterrence Without Death

**New 'Compliance Technology' Is Seen as Nonlethal Alternative**



May 10, 2000

By Randy Dotinga

SAN DIEGO (APBnews.com) -- As a scientist, Ed Vasel knows how tear gas works. As an alumnus of Kent State University in the early 1970s, he knows how tear gas feels and about what happens when authorities resort to deadly force.

Vasel attended Kent State in 1970 when four students were shot and killed by National Guard troops. That experience encouraged Vasel, who now works for the San Diego technology firm Jaycor, to develop a crime-fighting weapon that could disable people without seriously hurting them.

The device, called PepperBall, is now being used at some 60 police departments from California to Virginia to New York City.

### **Inspiration from war game**

Company officials say they have invented a "compliance technology" that is not as lethal as a bullet but much more powerful than simple verbal commands.

"PepperBall is going to fill a gap," said Craig Beery, director of training and sales with Jaycor, which manufactures the device. "People love it. It's going to solve a lot of problems for them."

Scientists at Jaycor were inspired by Paintball, the outdoor war game in which players shoot small, paint-filled projectiles at each other.

In PepperBall, the paint inside a projectile is replaced by pepper powder, a natural substance that is extracted from dried jalapeno peppers. The projectile explodes on impact, sending a 2-foot cloud of powder into the air.

If all goes according to plan, the powder quickly makes its way into the target's mouth, nose, eyes and lungs.

### **'Comply with authority'**

Sniffing even a small snort of pepper powder is a distinctly unpleasant experience, akin to taking a breath of tear gas. The body reacts violently to the unwelcome powder in its respiratory system.

While a small percentage of people are immune to pepper powder, most will immediately start coughing, sneezing and wheezing, Beery said. The effects of pepper powder wear off, but only after several excruciating minutes. Company officials say that, despite the discomfort, the result is better than some of the alternatives -- like getting shot by a bullet.

"The end result is that you get those suspects to comply with authority," said Beery. "You don't want to kill them or hurt them."

### **No serious injuries**

Jaycor trains officers to shoot at the chest so that the projectiles don't cause injuries to more sensitive parts of the body, particularly the face and eyes.

While it's nearly impossible to kill someone with a PepperBall, getting hit by one isn't painless, company officials say.

"It feels like somebody thumped you really hard in the chest," said Beery, who has experienced firsthand getting shot by a PepperBall.

Human PepperBall targets often are sore and have bruises for several days. "But it's not going to give any serious kind

Chemical weapons have been around for hundreds of years. But only in the 20th century have they become commonly used in both warfare and crowd control.

Normally, police use grenades and hand-held canisters to "deliver" tear gas and Chemical Mace.

#### **Used in Seattle riots**

Tear-gas grenades are geared for crowds, while Mace is best used in a one-on-one situation when a suspect is 6 to 8 feet away. Neither is well-designed for use in cases where a suspect is closer than 30 feet but too far away to spray, Beery said.

That's where PepperBall comes in. PepperBall got its first widespread use in Seattle during the World Trade Organization riots last fall.

Newspaper front pages showed a powerful photograph of an officer in a cloud of tear gas, brandishing a PepperBall launcher that looked a bit like an Al Capone-era submachine gun. Seattle police have declined to talk about the PepperBall device, citing potential lawsuits.

Since last fall, several police departments have bought the PepperBall device, which costs about \$675 a kit, which includes a single launcher, Beery said.

#### **NYPD, LAPD testing product**

A number of large police and sheriff's agencies are testing PepperBall, including the New York Police Department, San Diego Police Department and the sheriff's departments of Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

Other police agencies have bought or are considering buying launchers, including the Polk County Sheriff's Department in central Florida, the Washington transit police and the Alexandria and Fairfax police departments in Virginia.

In San Diego, SWAT officers already have used PepperBall twice, said Lt. Ray Shay.

In one incident, officers faced a suicidal man who threatened to kill himself inside the bedroom of a house.

"We were concerned we'd have to confront him and use lethal force," Shay said.

When the man broke the bedroom window, police shot a PepperBall into the room. The man began coughing and tried to hide in the closet.

"We were able to pull him out," Shay said.

#### **Police foil attack**

In another tense confrontation, a suicidal man, armed with a knife, came out of a house toward officers.

"It was obviously an attempt at suicide by cop," Shay said.

Officers first fired beanbag projectiles at him, then turned to PepperBall.

"The effect of the PepperBalls caused him to start coughing, and he dropped the knife," Shay said.

The man was arrested and visited the police station a few days later.



"He thanked the officers for saving his life," Shay said.

## And fatal shootings

Stories like these are heartening to Vassel. The development of PepperBall gives him hope that law enforcement officers will avoid fatal shootings like those that devastated the country May 4, 1970.

"My work here helps to put closure to that day," he said.

Randy Dotinga is an APBnews.com West Coast correspondent ([randy.dotinga@apbnews.com](mailto:randy.dotinga@apbnews.com)).

[Click here to return to the top of the page.](#)

### Send this page to a friend:

Your friend's email:

Your name:

Your message:

[Check this out!](#)

[Send Email](#)

---

[Main](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Shopping & Services](#) | [People](#) | [Best of the City](#) | [Visitor's Guide](#) | [News & Sports](#) | [Other Cities](#)  
[Site Index](#) | [Help](#) | [Affiliate Program](#) | [About Us](#)

Other Areas:

[Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs & Careers](#) | [Health](#) | [Travel](#) | [Money](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Auctions](#)  
[Weddings](#) | [Computers](#) | [Legal](#) | [Relocation](#) | [Home Improvement](#) | [Personal Finance](#)

---



[Privacy Policy](#) & [Legal Notices](#)

Copyright © 1996-2000 Digital City, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

LSJ NEWS CLASSIFIEDS HOMES CARS JOBS MSU SPORTS COLF APARTMENTS

Friday, June 16, 2000

**NEWS**

Local News  
National News  
MSU Sports  
Message Board

**WEATHER**

Forecast  
Area Radar Image  
National Weather

**KEY TOPICS**

News Ethics  
Best of the Best  
University Info  
Communities  
Schools

**CONTACT**

Letters  
Contact Us  
Subscribe  
Back Issues  
Advertising Info

**SERVICES**

Buy a Car  
Buy a Home  
Find a Job  
Classifieds  
Personals

## Police get first look at nonlethal weapon

**Plastic pellets could be next 'hot' tool for law enforcement**

By Christine MacDonald  
Lansing State Journal

The volley of small plastic balls exploded on MSU police Sgt. Matt Merony's chest and arms.

The pain from a cloud of cayenne pepper dust was enough to make Merony drop to his hands and knees.

Merony and about 30 other officers from police departments across the state tested the nonlethal weapon called PepperBall on Thursday at the Michigan State University Department of Police and Public Safety.

The dust-filled plastic balls are fired from a gun fueled by pressurized air.

"It hurt bad," said Merony, who sacrificed his body to demonstrate the ball's effects. "It's going to stop anybody."

Local departments are interested in the new technology, which can cost at least \$700 per gun.

"It's another tool for our officers' tool boxes," East Lansing police Lt. Tom Johnstone said.

The goal is to catch a dangerous criminal without killing him or her.

Thursday's demonstration was the first pitch to a Michigan police agency by the San Diego-based company Jaycor Tactical Systems, which designed the PepperBall system.

"It's the psychological effect," said Mike Tricker, a Jaycor training coordinator. "They don't know what they are being shot with. You do."

The projectile first stuns its target as it hits. The balls burst on impact and the pepper dust kicks in, irritating the nose, lungs and eyes.

Merony later showed off the purple and red welts the balls left on his arms and stomach. Five minutes after he emerged from the pepper cloud, he stopped coughing, which would have been enough time to safely arrest him, Tricker said.

Seattle police used PepperBall guns at World Trade Organization protests that turned into riots in December.



Area police, such as the Lansing and East Lansing departments, already use less lethal weapons designed to have a similar effect on victims.

Bean bag rounds, a heavy cloth filled with tiny pellets, have been used by Lansing-area tactical teams to stun dangerous subjects.

Tricker argued bean bags aren't always enough to stop someone and sometimes can be too much, killing the target if they hit the head or chest.

The company warns that up to 14 percent of the public might not be fully affected by the pepper dust.

PepperBall can be used anywhere from point-blank range to 30 feet away. Bean bag rounds have a range of about 10 to 25 feet, police said.

Johnstone said he plans to pitch the purchase to the department.

He said it could be useful in a riot situation like the one that erupted after the 1999 NCAA championship game between MSU and Duke University. After MSU's loss, 10,000 people ran through the streets and caused about \$500,00 in damage.

What do you think? Visit our message board.

[Click here.](#)

Follow this story in the **Lansing State Journal.**

[Click here](#) to subscribe.

[Lansing Homes](#) | [Lansing Classifieds](#) | [Lansing Employment](#) | [Green and White](#) | [Great Lakes Links](#)



News you  
can use

Copyright 2000, Lansing State Journal

**MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR - 1997, 1998, 1999**

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated April 18, 2000).

Questions about this site? [webmaster@lsj.com](mailto:webmaster@lsj.com)

# SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

**This—**  
—*week*

**MAY 29-  
JUNE 4,  
2000**

## Area Firm Helps Cops Put the Sting To Bad Guys

**BY BRAD GRAVES**  
*Staff Writer*

Take a paintball. Give it a plastic shell.

Forget the paint and fill the ball instead with a powder containing throat-tightening, eye-stinging oleoresin capsicum pepper — the stuff in pepper spray.

Put it into an air gun capable of sending such balls up to 100 feet, in quick succession. Simple.

It's simple, versatile and potentially life-saving if a peace officer can use it instead of a handgun to disable an unruly subject, according to representatives of its manufacturer, University City-based Jaycor Tactical Systems.

Jaycor calls its product line the PepperBall System. Several years in

*Please turn to PEPPERBALL on Page 48*



Craig Beery, director of sales and training for Jaycor Tactical Systems, takes aim with one of the company's PepperBall air rifles. The non-lethal weapon, which fires plastic balls filled with stinging oleoresin capsicum pepper (seen in inset), is gaining increased interest from law enforcement agencies nationwide.

be the first to know

CNN.com

[Click Here](#)

Click on the product you're interested in:

e-business

# CNN.com

CNN Sites

[MAINPAGE](#)[WORLD](#)[U.S.](#)[WEATHER](#)[BUSINESS](#)[SPORTS](#)[TECHNOLOGY](#)[computing](#)[personal technology](#)[SPACE](#)[HEALTH](#)[ENTERTAINMENT](#)[POLITICS](#)[LAW](#)[CAREER](#)[TRAVEL](#)[FOOD](#)[ARTS & STYLE](#)[BOOKS](#)[NATURE](#)[IN-DEPTH](#)[ANALYSIS](#)[LOCAL](#)

EDITIONS:

[CNN.com Europe](#)[change default edition](#)

MULTIMEDIA:

[video](#)[video archive](#)[audio](#)[multimedia showcase](#)[more services](#)

E-MAIL:

Subscribe to one of our  
[news e-mail lists.](#)

Enter your address:

go

DISCUSSION:

[message boards](#)[myCNN](#) | [Video](#) | [Audio](#) | [Headline News Brief](#) | [Free E-mail](#) | [Feedback](#)

## Prison officials test futuristic technology in mock 'riots'

May 26, 2000

Web posted at: 9:16 p.m. EDT (0116 GMT)

From Science Correspondent [Rick Lockridge](#)

MOUNDSVILLE, West Virginia (CNN) -- A riot grips a penitentiary in West Virginia. Unlike most, prison managers actually encourage this one. It's a drill, staged to test high-tech equipment designed to stop real uprisings, without lethal force.

The means to control jailhouse disturbances have changed over the years.

"When I started in corrections, it was a billy club and a blackjack," said West Virginia Corrections Commissioner Paul Kirby.

Prison guards now rely on tools that are more advanced and less violent. The catchphrase in prisons now is, "Less than lethal force."

"Less than lethal is good. Less than lethal is what it's all about," said one participant.

Corrections officers from all over the United States tested the latest in less-than-lethal technology during three days of simulated prison uprisings at the old state penitentiary in Moundsville, West Virginia.

"We try out all these new products and see what will work and what is really good in the field, and what will help the officers, and we try to get that on the market," said Diane Quinn, a corrections technology agent for Office of Law Enforcement Technology



Prison guards drilling to test new riot-control technology

### VIDEO

CNN's Rick Lockridge looks at some new technology in the corrections industry.

Real	<a href="#">28K</a>	<a href="#">80K</a>
Windows Media	<a href="#">28K</a>	<a href="#">80K</a>

Corrections Officer of the Year Donald Morgan explains the tactical issue for Ohio's Special Response Teams.

QuickTime	<a href="#">Play</a>
Real	<a href="#">28K</a> <a href="#">80K</a>



What are

Business

Travel

Home &amp; G

Electronic

Sporting G

Toys &amp; Ga

Flowers

Jewelry

Cameras

[CNN.com](#)  
CNN Site

Search

[CNN.com](#)

Find

TECHNOLOGY  
TOP STORIES

'Ginger' invents  
speculation c

Apple bets on  
editing progr

Review: 'Star  
Battle for Na

Matter 'seen'  
black holes f

Review: 'Evil  
King'

Web-based i  
steady path

(MORE)

[CNN.com](#)  
TOP STORIES

Bush to mar  
Texas schor

Expert: Mud  
Salvador qu  
difficult

Killing prom  
talks

Study finds  
science text

(MORE)

[CNN](#)  
BUSINESS

Europe inch

Nesle 'seek

B.33

[chat](#)  
[feedback](#)

## Commercialization

Windows Media [28K](#) [80K](#)

## CNN WEB SITES:

[myCNN.com](#) [CNN](#)  
[allpolitics](#) [CNN](#)

[CNNfyi.com](#)[CNN.com Europe](#)[AsiaNow](#)[Spanish](#)[Portuguese](#)[German](#)[Italian](#)[Swedish](#)[Norwegian](#)[Danish](#)[Japanese](#)[Chinese Headlines](#)[Korean Headlines](#)

## TIME INC. SITES:

[Go To ...](#)

## CNN NETWORKS:

[CNN](#)  
[CNN INTERNATIONAL](#)  
[CNN Headline NEWS](#)  
[CNN RADIO](#)  
[CNN AIRPORT NETWORK](#)

[CNN anchors](#)[transcripts](#)[Turner distribution](#)

## SITE INFO:

[help](#)  
[contents](#)  
[search](#)  
[ad info](#)  
[jobs](#)

## WEB SERVICES:

The new tools are tested in a number of staged events. In one, "inmates" in a dining hall take hostages. The riot response team uses distraction devices, appropriately called "flash-bangs," to stun the inmates before storming the cafeteria.

An officer with the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department in Georgia said he likes the new equipment. It contains no metal parts, which can turn into shrapnel.



Law enforcement officers portray prisoners and guards in a staged dining hall riot

in the event.

Defensive gear also plays large in modern prison control. A well-equipped guard might wear \$3,000 worth of equipment. One example is a necklace microphone that keeps an officer's hands free.

"It operates basically off the vibrations of the throat, with an ear piece. And it also works really good with a gas mask," said Donald Morgan, who was named national corrections officer of the year.

"If you were in an area and I flash-banged you with an old model in that area, there is a good chance that you would be injured or even killed," Capt. Carl Sims said.

"It can still hurt really bad and knock you silly like it is supposed to, but it's not going to kill you."

The arsenal of the modern corrections officer includes some sophisticated offensive weapons, such as:

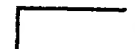
A riot shield that flashes into the eyes of inmates and disorients them.

Projectile weapons that used pressurized air instead of gunpowder. One shoots plastic "thumpers," which can break ribs or cause concussions but little more.

Pepper-ball guns have become popular. They shoot little balls that resemble paintballs, but are filled with an offensive chemical, or "O.C." "Not only do you dispense the OC but you get the kinetic impact and the psychological impact of being shot," said Jim Topham of Jaycor, a San Diego-based company that participated

[Take your pc](#)[\(MORE\)](#)

## MARKETS

[DJIA](#) unch.[NAS](#) ↑ 1.[S&P](#) ↓ 0.

[CNN Sports Illustrated](#)  
**SPORTS**

[Giants, Rave](#)  
[Super Bowl?](#)

[Jays trade W](#)  
[in six-player.](#)

[Sampras, De](#)  
[at Australian](#)

[\(MORE\)](#)[→ All Scoreb](#)

## WEATHER

Enter your U

[Click here for](#)  
[world cities](#)

## WORLD

[Salvadorans](#)  
[possible mur](#)

## U.S.

[Nation paus](#)  
[civil rights le](#)  
[King Jr.](#)

## POLITICS

[Clinton reluc](#)  
[week of pres](#)

## LAW

[Immigrant se](#)  
[Alabama ovr](#)  
[driver's test](#)

ENTERTAIN

B34

Prototype gloves made of spun Teflon have more puncture-resistance than leather. And new bullet-proof linings for ballistic vests are lighter and more flexible.

Corrections officers at the West Virginia gathering said good equipment gives them an intimidating physical presence. That, they say, is a powerful psychological weapon that can often stop uprisings before they start.

"If they see that you are prepared and ready to take control when necessary, your problems will eliminate themselves a lot of time," Sims said.



Non-lethal offensive weapons include pepper-ball guns that shoot chemical pellets

One drill involved an inmate fight that escalated into more violence during a football game. In another, a food fight led to a hostage crisis.

Participants said the realism gives them training they really need but rarely receive. Companies making products that impress the corrections officers sometimes receive federal and state assistance to bring the technologies to market.

[ENTERTAINMENT](#)

['Save the La  
off No. 1 mo](#)

[HEALTH](#)

[Uranium arr  
in 1991](#)

[TRAVEL](#)

[Brave crowd  
during inaug:](#)

[FOOD](#)

[Lemons and](#)

[ARTS & ST](#)

[Goya lampor  
his cartoons](#)

[\(MORE HI](#)

#### RELATED STORIES:

[Prisoner uses Web site to communicate with outside world](#)

May 17, 2000

[Illinois police reaching for high-tech horizon](#)

February 18, 2000

[Cities say tech will play key role in future problem-solving](#)

January 27, 1999

#### RELATED SITES:

[JUSTNET - National Law Enforcement and Corrections](#)

[Technology Center](#)

[Jaycor International](#)

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window

External sites are not endorsed by CNN Interactive.

Search

CNN.com

Find

[Back to the top](#)

© 2001 Cable News Network. All Rights Reserved.

[Terms](#) under which this service is provided to you.

Read our [privacy guidelines](#).

Wednesday  
May 17, 2000

# The San Diego Union-Tribune

## Deputies to get more beanbag, pepper guns

*County OKs purchase  
of 'less lethal' weapons*

By Luis Monteagudo Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

San Diego County sheriff's deputies soon will be armed with more weapons designed to bring down people without killing them.

The county is buying \$500,000 worth of "less lethal" weapons that fire pepper balls and beanbag-like pouches. Officials hope to have them on the streets within two months.

Sheriff's officials demonstrated the weapons yesterday, a few hours after the county Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the purchase.

"This does not take the place of a gun," said Sheriff Bill Kolender. But he said the additional weapons will enhance the safety of deputies and the public.

Supervisors agreed to buy 274 guns that fire pepper balls and 190 beanbag guns, plus ammunition.

The Sheriff's Department currently has 38 pepper-ball guns and 40 beanbag guns.

The purchase means that there will be at least one pepper-ball or beanbag gun available to every deputy on each shift, officials said.

The department has been using various types of "less-lethal" weapons since 1993, including beanbag shotguns and Tasers, which fire a dart that delivers an electrical charge. Last year, department officials began testing various weapons, and a committee eventually selected the two being purchased.

The pepper-ball gun fires a marble-sized ball filled with a peppery substance. When the ball breaks, it releases a cloud of pepper that incapacitates a person. The other weapon fires a pouch, filled with 40 grams of lead pellets, designed to knock a person off his or her feet.

### Less-lethal equipment

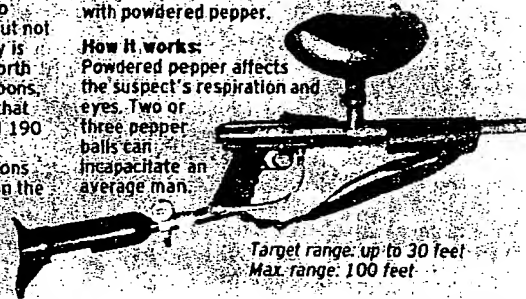
San Diego County sheriff's deputies will be armed with more weapons designed to bring people down but not kill them. The county is buying \$500,000 worth of "less lethal" weapons, including 274 guns that fire pepper balls and 190 shotguns that fire beanbags. The weapons are expected to be on the streets in a couple of months.

#### ■ Pepper-ball gun

Powered by a high-pressure air bottle, the gun holds 200 rounds of balls filled with powdered pepper.

#### How it works:

Powdered pepper affects the suspect's respiration and eyes. Two or three pepper balls can incapacitate an average man.



Target range: up to 30 feet  
Max. range: 100 feet

SOURCE: San Diego Police Department

PAUL HORN / Union-Tribune



DAN TREYAN / Union-Tribune

**Hot weapon:** Sheriff's Cpl. Scott Amos demonstrated the Jaycor pepper-ball gun yesterday during a press conference at the Duffystown training center at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station.

**"I think you're seeing another option that will reduce the number of fatal incidents and does it in a way that doesn't put our deputies lives in danger."**

*Supervisor Ron Roberts*

Sheriff's deputies demonstrated both weapons at their Duffystown training facility at the Miramar Ma-

rine Corps Air Station. Also participating in the demonstration was Supervisor Ron Roberts, who introduced the proposal to buy the weapons. Roberts, who is running for mayor of San Diego, fired several pepper rounds.

"I think you're seeing another option that will reduce the number of fatal incidents and does it in a way that doesn't put our deputies lives in danger," Roberts said.

Other area law enforcement agencies also are arming themselves with the less-lethal weapons.

Earlier this month, the San Diego City Council agreed to spend \$214,000 on Tasers and beanbag guns. And in April, National City police officers began training with pepper-ball guns and an electrical stun gun.



# San Diego

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE • WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2000

**"This does not take the place of a gun."**

SHERIFF BILL KOLENDER

## Deputies get additional 'less lethal' gui



DAN TREYAN / Union-Tribune

County to buy bear pepper-ball weapon

By Luis Monteagudo Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

**S**an Diego County sheriff deputies soon will be armed with more weapons designed to bring down people without killing them.

The county is buying \$500,000 worth of "less lethal" weapons that fire pepper balls and beanbag-like pouches. Officials hope to have them on the streets within two months.

Sheriff's officials demonstrated the weapons yesterday, a few hours after the county Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the purchase.

"This does not take the place of a gun," said Sheriff Bill Kolender. He said the additional weapons will enhance the safety of deputies and the public.

Supervisors agreed to buy 27

See **WEAPONS** on Page

**Hot weapon:** Sheriff's Cpl. Scott Amos demonstrated the Jaycor pepper-ball gun yesterday during a press conference at the Duffystown training center.

## Less-lethal equipment

San Diego County sheriff's deputies will be armed with more weapons designed to bring people down but not kill them. The county is buying \$500,000 worth of "less lethal" weapons, including 274 guns that fire pepper balls and 190 shotguns that fire beanbags. The weapons are expected to be on the streets in a couple of months.

### ■ Pepper-ball gun

Powered by a high-pressure air bottle, the gun holds 200 rounds of balls filled with powdered pepper.

### How it works:

Powdered pepper affects the suspect's respiration and eyes. Two or three pepper balls can incapacitate an average man.



Target range: up to 30 feet  
Max. range: 100 feet

SOURCE: San Diego Police Department

PAUL HORN / Union-Tribune

## Weapons

Supervisors approve  
\$500,000 purchase

*Continued from B-1*

guns that fire pepper balls and 190 beanbag guns, plus ammunition.

The Sheriff's Department currently has 38 pepper-ball guns and 40 beanbag guns.

The purchase means that there will be at least one pepper-ball or beanbag gun available to every deputy on each shift, officials said.

The department has been using various types of "less-lethal" weapons since 1993, including beanbag shotguns and Tasers, which fire a dart that delivers an electrical charge. Last year, department officials began testing various weapons, and a committee eventually selected the two being purchased.

The pepper-ball gun fires a marble-sized ball filled with a peppery substance. When the ball breaks, it

releases a cloud of pepper that incapacitates a person. The other weapon fires a pouch, filled with 40 grams of lead pellets, designed to knock a person off his or her feet.

Sheriff's deputies demonstrated both weapons at their Duffystown training facility at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. Also participating in the demonstration was Supervisor Ron Roberts, who introduced the proposal to buy the weapons. Roberts, who is running for mayor of San Diego, fired several pepper rounds.

"I think you're seeing another option that will reduce the number of fatal incidents and does it in a way that doesn't put our deputies lives in danger," Roberts said.

Other area law enforcement agencies also are arming themselves with the less-lethal weapons.

Earlier this month, the San Diego City Council agreed to spend \$214,000 on Tasers and beanbag guns. And in April, National City police officers began training with pepper-ball guns and an electrical stun gun.



DAN TREVAN / Union-Tribune

**Hot weapon:** Sheriff's Cpl. Scott Amos demonstrated the Jaycor pepper-ball gun yesterday during a press conference at the Duffystown training center at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station.

# An arsenal of 'less lethal' firearm

## Deputies to get more beanbag, pepper guns

By Luis Monteagudo Jr.  
STAFF WRITER

San Diego County sheriff's deputies soon will be armed with more weapons designed to bring down people without killing them.

The county is buying \$500,000 worth of "less lethal" weapons that fire pepper balls and beanbag-like pouches. Officials hope to have them on the streets within two months.

Sheriff's officials demonstrated the weapons yesterday, a few hours after the county Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the pur-

chase.

"This does not take the place of a gun," said Sheriff Bill Kolender. But he said the additional weapons will enhance the safety of deputies and the public.

Supervisors agreed to buy 274 guns that fire pepper balls and 190 beanbag guns, plus ammunition.

The Sheriff's Department currently has 38 pepper-ball guns and 40 beanbag guns.

The purchase means that there will be at least one pepper-ball or beanbag gun available to every deputy on each shift, officials said.

The department has been using various types of "less-lethal" weapons since 1993, including beanbag shotguns and Tasers, which fire a

dart that delivers an electrical charge. Last year, department officials began testing various weapons, and a committee eventually selected the two being purchased.

The pepper-ball gun fires a marble-sized ball filled with a peppery substance. When the ball breaks, it releases a cloud of pepper that incapacitates a person. The other weapon fires a pouch, filled with 40 grams of lead pellets, designed to knock a person off his or her feet.

Sheriff's deputies demonstrated both weapons at their Duffystown training facility at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. Also participating in the demonstration was Supervisor Ron Roberts, who

introduced the proposal to buy weapons. Roberts, who is running for mayor of San Diego, fired several pepper rounds.

"I think you're seeing another situation that will reduce the number of fatal incidents and does it in a way that doesn't put our deputies in danger," Roberts said.

Other area law enforcement agencies also are arming themselves with the less-lethal weapons.

Earlier this month, the San Diego City Council agreed to spend \$214,000 on Tasers and beanbag guns. And in April, National police officers began training with pepper-ball guns and an electrical stun gun.

# NORTH COUNTY TIMES

NEWS FROM OCEANSIDE, CAMP PENDLETON, VISTA, SAN MARCOS, CARLSBAD, ENCINITAS, FALLBROOK AND ALL NORTH COUNTY

MAY 17, 2000

## Sheriff gets \$500,000 for less-deadly weapons

MARTY GRAHAM  
STAFF WRITER

**SAN DIEGO** — The Sheriff's Department is getting \$500,000 to buy guns that shoot beanbags and pepper balls, rather than bullets, in an attempt to reduce the number of deadly shootings.

The money, approved unanimously Tuesday by the county Board of Supervisors, will be used to buy 190 Remington model 870 shotguns that shoot beanbags and 274 PS-SA200 PepperBall Launcher Systems, along with training guns.

"That should be enough to supply around 1,000 deputies," said Sgt. Charlie Campe, who is in charge of firearms training. "We plan to train all of the court-services deputies and transportation deputies and then place the majority of the weapons with patrol deputies."

The so-called "less-lethal" weapons will be used for situations where deputies have time to choose their weapons, Campe said. However, since half of all shootings happen in the first 90 seconds of an encounter with an apparently dangerous civilian, fatalities in those shootings may not go down.

The number of shootings by sheriff's deputies has declined since an all-time high of 11 shootings — seven resulting in death — in 1992, according to the district attorney's office, which reviews all peace officers' shootings.

Each year since then, there have been two or three fatal shootings, with the exception of 1996, when there were no fatal or nonfatal shootings by deputies.

John Parker, the executive director of the county Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, was not available Tuesday to comment on the use of less-lethal weapons. The 10-year-old review board, created by the voters to examine residents' complaints of misconduct, has investigated a half-dozen fatal shootings by deputies in the past few years.

San Diego lawyer Mike Marinar, who specializes in police-misconduct lawsuits, said he viewed the new weapons as a mixed blessing.

"If these weapons are truly used instead of deadly force, they can be valuable," he said. "My concern is that the weapons can be abused, like any weapon."

For example, he said, pepper spray is routinely used by police on people who anger officers in a kind of street justice.

"Sometimes when police departments get new tools, they use the tools when not needed or in ways not intended," he said. "I've already heard of these weapons being used on unarmed people to force cooperation."

But, he added, as a substitute for deadly force, the weapons

Campe said that the weapons are "less lethal" than regular guns, but that it would be a mistake to consider them to be non-lethal.

"There have been incidents where people have died or been seriously hurt when these weapons are used," he said. "But the (weapons) do reduce the likelihood of a fatality."

The pepper ball gun is a compressed air rifle much like a paint-ball rifle that shoots a plastic ball full of capicum — the oil that makes peppers hot. The ball, between the size of a nickel and a quarter, shatters on impact and releases the pepper as a powder. It is most effective when used from a distance of between 3 and 30 feet, Campe said. The county will purchase 57,500 of the little red balls.

The beanbags are stuffed into the end of the shotgun and are most effective when fired at a range of 15 to 50 feet. They hit the target with a force of 110 foot-pounds, where a fastball thrown by a major league pitcher hits with a force of 97 foot-pounds, Campe said.

"These things hurt like hell and they leave bruises," Campe said. "But they are a good alternative to a shooting."

The weapons are for situations where deputies have time to evaluate the danger and send for less-lethal weapons, such as inmate uprisings, hostage situa-

**SHOOTINGS AT A GLANCE**

Fatal shootings in San Diego County by year

Year	Fatals by sheriff's deputies	Non-fatal by sheriff's deputies	Total shootings by all county officers
1999	2	0	9
1998	3	1	14
1997	3	1	25
1996	0	0	11
1995	3	1	21
1994	3	0	32
1993	2	2	32
1992	7	4	31

— Source: San Diego County District Attorney's Office

rions, quelling unrest and controlling agitated or suicidal people.

Campe agreed that most peace officer shootings occur within the first 90 seconds of contact with the civilian. The department was unable to provide statistics on how many times deputies have shot civilians in the past few years.

But, he said, the less-lethal weapons will still reduce the number of fatalities and give deputies better choices. Deputies have had 40 of the beanbag shotguns and 38 pepper ball launchers in use for the past year.

"We have used the bean bags over 100 times in situations where there could have been fatalities," he said. "We've used pepper balls six times since September and every situation ended without fatalities."

The goal of reducing fatalities serves the department as well as the public, Campe said. Officers are devastated by their involvement in shootings.

"Lethal force can be a career destroyer even when it is totally justified and totally appropriate," he said. "The long-term effects show up as hazards to family life, to relationships, to caring about the job."



**SHOP**

ADVERTISING

1300

WHERE DOES HOMER SIMPSON WORK?  
NUCLEAR PLANT BANK BAR**APBnews.com**  
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Crime, Justice, Safety: 8 Channels -- 26 Programs

► **NEWSCENTER** ► **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**  
 ► **SAFETY CENTER** ► **CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS**  
 ► **CRIME SOLVERS** ► **RESOURCE CENTER**  
 ► **VIDEO CENTER** ► **MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Behind the Badge Criminal Justice Calendar

APB Store | Free E-mail Alert | Live Police Scanners | Forums

**Search**

My APB | About APB | Contact APB | Newsletters | Downloads

APBNEWS.COM &gt; CJ PROFESSIONALS &gt; BEHIND THE BADGE &gt; STORY

Choose a Month... ▼

**FEATURES**

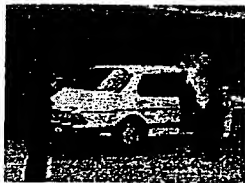
E-MAIL THIS STORY TO A FRIEND | E-MAIL THE EDITOR | TALK ABOUT IT

**Pepper Bullets: Deterrence Without Death**

New 'Compliance Technology' Is Seen as Nonlethal Alternative

May 10, 2000

By Randy Dotinga



SAN DIEGO (APBnews.com) -- As a scientist, Ed Vasel knows how tear gas works. As an alumnus of Kent State University in the early 1970s, he knows how tear gas feels -- and about what happens when authorities resort to deadly force.

Vasel attended Kent State in 1970 when four students were shot and killed by National Guard troops. That experience encouraged Vasel, who now works for the San Diego technology firm Jaycor, to develop a crime-fighting weapon that could disable people without seriously hurting them.

The device, called PepperBall, is now being used at some 60 police departments from California to Virginia to New York City.

**Inspiration from war game**

Company officials say they have invented a "compliance technology" that is not as lethal as a bullet but much more powerful than simple verbal commands.

"PepperBall is going to fill a gap," said Craig Beery, director of training and sales with Jaycor, which manufactures the device. "People love it. It's going to solve a lot of problems for them."

Scientists at Jaycor were inspired by Paintball, the outdoor war game in which players shoot small, paint-filled projectiles at each other.

In PepperBall, the paint inside a projectile is replaced by pepper powder, a natural

**Related Video:**

**Nonlethal Bullets at Work**  
Police Use PepperBall in a Simulation

**Related Stories:**

[Deputy Fired for Kicking Woman at Seattle Riots](#)

[Report Calls U.S. Cops Brutal](#)

**IN THE NEWS**

[Police Morale Low After Shooting of Unarmed Woman](#)

[Feds Knock LAPD for Alleged Misconduct](#)

[NYPD Chief Diagnosed With Prostate Cancer](#)

**FEATURES**

[Pepper Bullets: Deterrence Without Death](#)

[Boy Hero Gets Award -- 52 Years Later](#)

[Globe-trotting K-9s Save Lives at Disasters](#)

**PREVIOUS STORIES**

Choose a Month... ▼

**TALK ABOUT IT**

replaced by pepper powder, a natural substance that is extracted from dried jalapeno peppers. The projectile explodes on impact, sending a 2-foot cloud of powder into the air.

If all goes according to plan, the powder quickly makes its way into the target's mouth, nose, eyes and lungs.

### 'Comply with authority'

Sniffing even a small snort of pepper powder is a distinctly unpleasant experience, akin to taking a breath of tear gas. The body reacts violently to the unwelcome powder in its respiratory system.

While a small percentage of people are immune to pepper powder, most will immediately start coughing, sneezing and wheezing, Beery said. The effects of pepper powder wear off, but only after several excruciating minutes. Company officials say that, despite the discomfort, the result is better than some of the alternatives -- like getting shot by a bullet.

"The end result is that you get those suspects to comply with authority," said Beery. "You don't want to kill them or hurt them."

### No serious injuries

Jaycor trains officers to shoot at the chest so that the projectiles don't cause injuries to more sensitive parts of the body, particularly the face and eyes.

While it's nearly impossible to kill someone with a PepperBall, getting hit by one isn't painless, company officials say.

"It feels like somebody thumped you really hard in the chest," said Beery, who has experienced firsthand getting shot by a PepperBall.

Human PepperBall targets often are sore and have bruises for several days. "But it's not going to give any serious kind of injury," Beery said.

Chemical weapons have been around for hundreds of years. But only in the 20th century have they become commonly used in both warfare and crowd control.

Normally, police use grenades and hand-held canisters to "deliver" tear gas and Chemical Mace.

### Used in Seattle riots

Tear-gas grenades are geared for crowds, while Mace is best used in a one-on-one situation when a suspect is 6 to 8 feet away. Neither is well-designed for use in cases where a suspect is closer than 30 feet but too far away to spray, Beery said.

That's where PepperBall comes in. PepperBall got its first widespread use in Seattle during the World Trade Organization riots last fall.

Newspaper front pages showed a powerful photograph of an officer in a cloud of tear gas, brandishing a PepperBall launcher that looked a bit like an Al Capone-era submachine gun. Seattle police have declined to talk about the PepperBall device, citing potential lawsuits.

Since last fall, several police departments have bought the PepperBall device, which costs about \$675 a kit, which includes a single launcher, Beery said.

### NYPD, LAPD testing product

A number of large police and sheriff's agencies are testing PepperBall,

### Brutal

[Police: Some Ethnic Groups Immune to Pepper Spray](#)

[Police Apologize for Pepper Spray Claim](#)

### Related Link:

[Jaycor's Web site](#)

**[Should police officers be permitted to carry concealed firearms through other jurisdictions?](#)**

**[Government seizure of Elian: Tactical success or reckless move?](#)**

**[APBnews.com Poll:](#)**

**[Should police officers ticket each other for speeding?](#)**

☐ Yes. The speed limit applies to everyone.

☐ No. Police officers are better than average at high speed driving, and shouldn't be hassled unless flagrantly violating the law.

[Vote](#)

### ELSEWHERE ON THE WEB

[Ex-Sergeant, Cop Charged in Video Assault Case](#)

[Michigan Chief Quits to Run for Office](#)

[Tennessee Officer Indicted on Rape Charges](#)

[Ohio City Has a New Police Chief](#)

[Illinois Chief Recovering From Eye Surgery](#)

**ADVERTISING**  
**MOTOROLA**  
Click Here  
to Learn About  
Personalized Information  
for Your Paper

including the New York Police Department, San Diego Police Department and the sheriff's departments of Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

Other police agencies have bought or are considering buying launchers, including the Polk County Sheriff's Department in central Florida, the Washington transit police and the Alexandria and Fairfax police departments in Virginia.

In San Diego, SWAT officers already have used PepperBall twice, said Lt. Ray Shay.

In one incident, officers faced a suicidal man who threatened to kill himself inside the bedroom of a house.

"We were concerned we'd have to confront him and use lethal force," Shay said.

When the man broke the bedroom window, police shot a PepperBall into the room. The man began coughing and tried to hide in the closet.

"We were able to pull him out," Shay said.

#### **Police foil attack**

In another tense confrontation, a suicidal man, armed with a knife, came out of a house toward officers.

"It was obviously an attempt at suicide by cop," Shay said.

Officers first fired beanbag projectiles at him, then turned to PepperBall.

"The effect of the PepperBalls caused him to start coughing, and he dropped the knife," Shay said.

The man was arrested and visited the police station a few days later.

"He thanked the officers for saving his life," Shay said.

#### **Avoid fatal shootings**

Stories like these are heartening to Vassel. The development of PepperBall gives him hope that law enforcement officers will avoid fatal shootings like those that devastated the country May 4, 1970.

"My work here helps to put closure to that day," he said.

Randy Dotinga is an APBnews.com West Coast correspondent  
([randy.dotinga@apbnews.com](mailto:randy.dotinga@apbnews.com)).

#### **More from APBnews.com:**

[Scandals, Threats and Creeps: Barry Goldwater's FBI File](#)

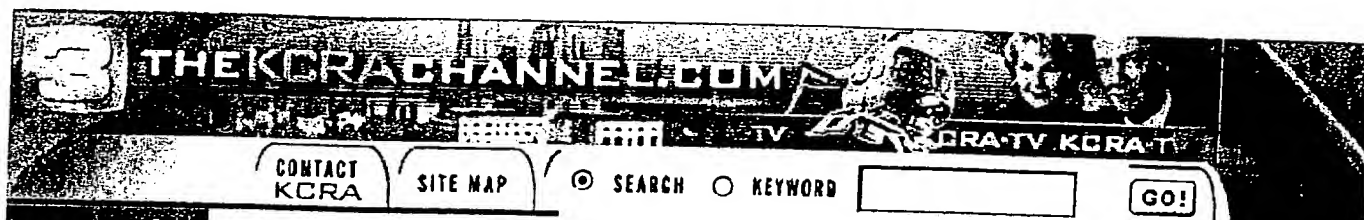
[Sports & Crime: New APBnews.com Section](#)

[Mom Took Newborn on Bank Heist, Cops Say](#)

[Cops Raid Toy Store for Fake Guns](#)

[Study: 7 of 10 Jail Inmates Involved with Drugs](#)





## NEWS

Decision 2000  
Call 3  
HealthWatch 3  
Business News  
Live Traffic 3  
Newsstand  
News Tips  
Taxes 2000  
Lottery  
KCRA 3  
Anchors  
and Reporters  
E-Mail Alerts

Home Page/News/Local News/Story

## Pepper Gun Stops Crooks From A Distance

### Effects Are Similar To Pepper Spray

YUBA CITY, Calif., Updated 4:57 p.m. PDT April 12, 2000 -- Sutter County sheriffs now have a new weapon to use against potential bad guys.

The department is training its officers to use a type of gun that fires pepper pellets. It enables officers to achieve the same effect as pepper spray without having to get close to the suspect.

The guns can hold 200 rounds and fire between six and 12 pepper balls per second. They can be shot with accuracy from as far away as 30 feet.



The effects of a pepper ball last from five to 10 minutes and give officers another non-lethal way to stop someone.

The guns cost about \$650, and so far the department only has two. They hope to add more in the future.

[KCRA's Bianca Solorzano Demonstrates](#)

Copyright 2000 by TheKCRACHannel. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

EMAIL THIS STORY TO A FRIEND



EX1

- ☒ Noon Headli  
☐ Evenir Headli  
☐ Entert News

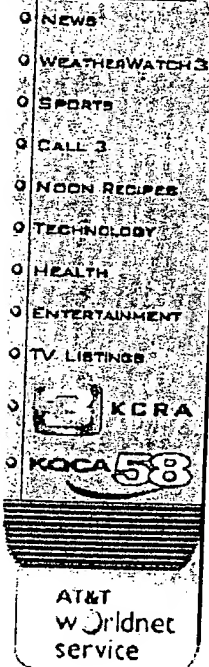
...more

Enter



### LATEST HEADLINE

Armed Serial Robber Hits Valley  
Cat Tortured, Found At Elementary School  
Senegalese Dance Troupe Disappears  
Man To Be Sentenced For Triple Murder  
Inmate Firefighters Save State Millions  
Vallejo Mourns Fallen Officer  
New Magazine Helps Bargain Hunters  
Kings Players Accused Of Reckless Driving  
County Puts Up Money To Protect Eagles  
Pepper Gun Stops Crooks From A Distance



B45

# Area law agencies move toward new nonlethal weapons

By Gregory Alan Gross  
STAFF WRITER

National City police officers are about to have a pair of new weapons added to their personal arsenals — weapons designed not to kill.

Several officers were trained last week to use the pepper ball device, a type of gun that fires a ball of irritating powder accurately and from a greater distance than the pepper spray canister; and the air taser, an improved version of the electrical stun gun developed two decades ago.

Those officers will train the rest of National City's 38-member patrol force in the new weapons' use. After training, the officers will be issued their own.

Equipping the National City patrol force with these weapons is expected to cost the city approximately \$50,000, said Police Chief Skip DiCerchio.

The San Diego Police Department, which experienced a rash of officer-involved shootings at the beginning of the year, announced last month that it would issue air tasers to all of its patrol officers, as well as stinging "beanbag" rounds that can be fired from shotguns.

And law enforcement agencies throughout the county are researching or training with new nonlethal weapons.

In many cases, the key is not so much the weapons themselves, but ensuring that patrol officers have ready access to them. In the past, police departments have issued only a few of these devices to a handful of sergeants, or to elite units such as SWAT teams. The problem is the time it could take for the SWAT

team or the sergeant to arrive on the scene with the appropriate weapon for a volatile situation.

Said National City's DiCerchio: "You may not need it for a year or you may need it the next day. If you've got an armed subject in front of you right now, it doesn't do much good if the supervisor with the taser is 10 minutes away."

That fact was underscored in September when National City police confronted Arturo Alberto Gonzalez, 29, an escaped mental patient armed with a butcher knife.

Officers called for a supervisor with a taser, as well as a police dog team. Before either arrived, however, Gonzalez charged the four officers on the scene. All four fired their guns and Gonzalez fell dead.

"Sometimes, the subject's just not going to give you that extra time," DiCerchio said.

San Diego and National City are not the only cities taking hard and ongoing looks at nonlethal weapons for their police forces. Virtually every local police department, from El Cajon to Oceanside to Chula Vista, has a unit or an officer that spends time checking the latest in nonlethal weapon technology.

"There's been a discussion of a variety of different things," said Lt. Fred Morrison, spokesman for the El Cajon Police Department. "We continually look at different systems and tools that become available."

Chula Vista police also are looking at nonlethal weapons, but with a healthy dose of skepticism, said Lt. Don Hunter.

"It would be better to call them less-than-lethal weapons, because, even though they're designed to be



**Pepper gun:** National City Police Chief Skip DiCerchio held a pepper ball gun, which fires an irritating powder.

nonlethal, they can still kill under the right circumstances," Hunter said.

"For us, it's a matter of cost and making sure that these things perform as advertised."

Experts warn that all less-than-lethal weapons have shortcomings. Most have a limited range. Others do not work on people suffering mental disorders, under the influence of drugs or in an extreme rage.

"We have seen officers killed trying to use nonlethal weapons to save the life of the subject who killed them," said Lt. Charles "Sid" Heal of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Heal is a nationally recognized authority on police use of force.

"Whoever's going to be using these things needs to be covered by another officer who's prepared to

use deadly force," he said, because "you have to assume the subject is going to try to kill you if the nonlethal (weapon) doesn't work."

The state of the art when it comes to less-lethal police levels has not yet reached a high level, Heal said.

"All we've done so far is take lethal-weapon technology and slow it down a bit," he said.

Meanwhile, the Border Patrol whose agents probably confront more people on a day-to-day basis than any other law enforcement agency, is the one agency not looking to send more weaponry into the field.

Said Border Patrol spokesman Roy Villareal, "Our agents already carry pepper spray and collapsible batons. And, with experience, you learn to spot the potential trouble maker in the group and handcuff him immediately."

# National City's police getting tv nonlethal weapons

## Nonlethal

Police officers need to have ready access

*Continued from B-1*

experienced a rash of officer-involved shootings at the beginning of the year, announced last month that it would issue air tasers to all of its patrol officers, as well as stinging "beanbag" rounds that can be fired from shotguns.

And law enforcement agencies throughout the county are researching or training with new nonlethal weapons.

In many cases, the key is not so much the weapons themselves, but ensuring that patrol officers have ready access to them. In the past, police departments have issued only a few of these devices to a handful of sergeants, or to elite units such as SWAT teams. The problem is the time it could take for the SWAT team or the sergeant to arrive on the scene with the appropriate weapon for a volatile situation.

Said National City's DiCerchio: "You may not need it for a year or you may need it the next day. If you've got an armed subject in front of you right now, it doesn't do much good if the supervisor with the taser is 10 minutes away."

That fact was underscored in September when National City police confronted Arturo Alberto Gonzalez, 29, an escaped mental patient armed with a butcher knife.

Officers called for a supervisor with a taser, as well as a police dog team. Before either arrived, however, Gonzalez charged the four officers on the scene. All four fired their guns and Gonzalez fell dead.

"Sometimes, the subject's just not going to give you that extra time," DiCerchio said.

San Diego and National City are not the only cities taking hard and ongoing looks at nonlethal weapons for their police forces. Virtually every local police department, from El



By Gregory Alan Cross  
STAFF WRITER

National City police officers are to have a pair of new weapons added to their personal arsenals — weapons designed to kill.

Several officers are being trained this week to use the pepper ball device, a gun that fires a ball of irritating powder accurately and from a greater distance than the pepper spray canister; and the use of an improved version of the electric gun developed two decades ago.

Those officers will train the rest of the city's 38-member patrol force on new weapons' use. After training, officers will be issued their own.

Equipping the National City patrol with these weapons is expected to cost the city approximately \$50,000, said Chief Skip DiCerchio.

The San Diego Police Department

See NONLETHAL on P.

PEGGY PEATTIE / Union-Tribune photos

**New approach:** National City police Officer Rocky Carlock test-fired an air laser gun during a training session with the weapon.

Cajon to Oceanside to Chula Vista, has a unit or an officer that spends time checking the latest in nonlethal weapon technology.

"There's been a discussion of a variety of different things," said Lt. Fred Morrison, spokesman for the El Cajon Police Department. "We continually look at different systems and tools that become available."

Chula Vista police also are looking at nonlethal weapons, but

with a healthy dose of skepticism, said Lt. Don Hunter.

"It would be better to call them less-than-lethal weapons, because, even though they're designed to be nonlethal, they can still kill under the right circumstances," Hunter said.

"For us, it's a matter of cost and making sure that these things perform as advertised."

Experts warn that all less-than-lethal weapons have shortcomings. Most have a limited range. Others do not work on people suffering from mental disorders, under the influence of drugs or in an extreme rage.

"We have seen officers killed trying to use nonlethal weapons to save the life of the subject who killed them," said Lt. Charles "Sid" Heal of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Heal is a nationally recognized authority on police use of force.

"Whoever's going to be using

these things needs to be covered by another officer who's prepared to use deadly force," he said, because "you have to assume the subject is going to try to kill you if the nonlethal (weapon) doesn't work."

The state of the art when it comes to less-lethal police levels has not yet reached a high level, Heal said.

"All we've done so far is take lethal-weapon technology and slow it down a bit," he said.

Meanwhile, the Border Patrol, whose agents probably confront more people on a day-to-day basis than any other law enforcement agency, is the one agency not looking to send more weaponry into the field.

Said Border Patrol spokesman Roy Villareal, "Our agents already carry pepper spray and collapsible batons. And, with experience, you learn to spot the potential troublemaker in the group and handcuff him immediately."



**Pepper gun:** National City Police Chief Skip DiCerchio held a pepper ball gun, which fires an irritating powder.

# New Way for Police To Pack Some Heat

## Area Forces Might Use PepperBall

By TOM JACKMAN  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Even before it hit the market, PepperBall made a dramatic splash in the world of law enforcement.

A San Diego company, Jaycor Tactical Systems, had the idea to use the technology of paintball—spheres of paint encased in gelatin, used in mock war games—for police work, by placing the active ingredients of pepper spray in the ball instead of paint.

The ball explodes on impact, releasing pepper resin to incapacitate its target. As some police departments began testing it, word of PepperBall spread quickly. Seattle police got a jump on the product's scheduled January release by using PepperBall launchers during the civil unrest that accompanied the World Trade Organization talks there late last year.

Now, police in Northern Virginia are considering whether to add PepperBall to their arsenals. After Jaycor representatives gave a demonstration and training session at the Fairfax County police academy recently, Arlington County decided to buy at least one PepperBall launcher, while Fairfax and Alexandria police gave the new weapon an early thumbs-up.

The Prince William County Police Department, which has for several years been using "less-lethal" weapons in situations where it is possible to subdue a suspect without using deadly force, does not currently use the PepperBall technology. Chief Charlie T. Deane said, however, that such tactics could be considered for use in "appropriate situations."

"We would have to evaluate the technology, as we do with all other innovations, but it sounds like something that we would be interested in," Deane said. "If it could enhance the safety of our community and of our officers in situations where its use is warranted,

See PEPPERBALL, Page 4

## Area Police Might Use PepperBall

PEPPERBALL, From Page 3

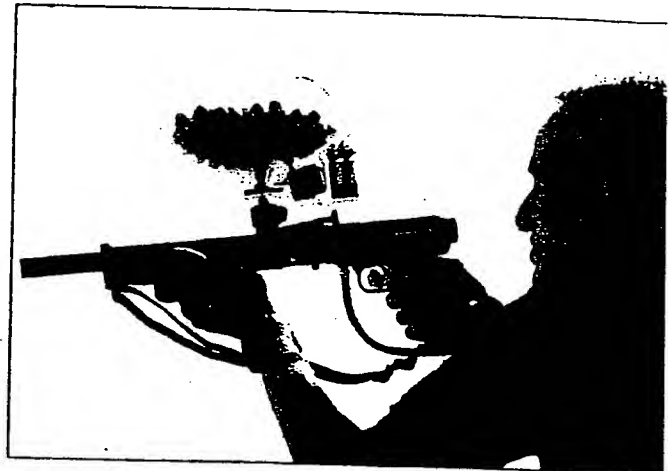
it would certainly be a useful tool for us."

As with paintball, a PepperBall sphere inflicts a sharp sting on impact. But PepperBall adds oleoresin capsicum to the mix, using an extract of jalapeno and habanero peppers, the same ingredients in the pepper spray widely used by police, Jaycor President Roger Behrendt said. When inhaled, the pepper resin irritates the lungs, leading to coughing, shortness of breath and, sometimes, vomiting and burning in the eyes.

And that, police say, provides an excellent intermediate step for officers who currently must choose between hand-to-hand combat or deadly force in some situations.

Other intermediate measures now in use have drawbacks, police say. The original pepper spray is

The Washington Post,  
Prince William Extra  
April 1, 2000



PHOTOS BY CAROL GIZY—THE WASHINGTON POST

Craig Beery, of Jaycor Tactical Systems, shows how to use a PepperBall gun

good, as long as it isn't windy or rainy, and the officer is close to the target. Police also can shoot beanbag rounds tucked inside shotgun shells, but they have questioned their accuracy. With electric tasers, a dart attached to a wire must touch the target to deliver an electric shock.

PepperBall is said to be highly accurate as far as 30 feet away; even when it lands near its target, the pepper resin can incapacitate. Powered by carbon dioxide gas, a launcher can fire 12 rounds per second. And the balls are made of plastic, making them more stable and reliable than paintballs.

In San Diego, where police are testing about a dozen of the guns, "the officers are pretty fired up about it," said Lt. Ray Shay, of the SWAT unit. Police there have used PepperBall twice in recent weeks, he said.

In the first incident, PepperBall rounds were launched into the bedroom of a suicidal man, causing him to retreat into a closet, where he was captured, Shay said. In the second episode, a man with a knife was shot repeatedly with beanbag rounds but kept coming until he was hit with PepperBall rounds, Shay said. "He dropped the knife," the lieutenant said.

Capt. Richard Alt, commander of Arlington's emergency response team, said he spoke with Seattle police after their World Trade Organization experience with PepperBall.

"They said it was very effective.

With the PepperBall gun, you target specific people if you want to, and it reduces the amount of contamination to the surrounding area," Alt said.

He has submitted a request to buy a PepperBall launcher, and a county police officer has been trained how to use it.

Alexandria police Lt. P. Crawford, head of the special operations section, said, "We're looking at getting the weapon out the street because it is a less lethal application."

There's a plus for police as well, Crawford said: "If you look when the OC (pepper) spray was introduced, the amount of officer injuries dropped dramatically."

Fairfax police Maj. Gary Ball, the operations support bureau chief, said he found PepperBall impressive during the demonstration. In addition to stand-offs and barricade situations, Ball said, jail officers could use the guns to calm prisoners. The Fairfax Sheriff's Department, which monitors the county jail, is looking at the technology.

Ball said Fairfax wants to examine the liability aspects of PepperBall before committing to it. But Craig Beery, who trains police in the system's use for Jaycor, said courts have cleared pepper spray as a reasonable use of force.

Seattle police declined to discuss their use of PepperBall, but Beery said, "We've gotten a lot of interest from around the country since Seattle."

March 23, 2000

# Police consider using non-lethal 'bullets'



**BALLS OF FIRE:** Fairfax County police officers try out compressed-air guns that shoot pepper balls.

BY ANDREA PRICER  
Times Staff Writers

Shoot your suspect, but do it without shedding a drop of blood—that was what a California company said to Fairfax County police Monday morning.

Jaycor, a San Diego company that has worked with the Defense Department since the 1970s, introduced county officers to its new system of immobilizing suspects with pepper balls.

Pepperballs are plastic balls containing powder similar to cornstarch, said Craig Beer, Jaycor's director of sales and training.

The powder is laced with a chemical taken from jalapeño and cayenne peppers called OC.

When the plastic ball hits something hard, like a person's chest, it bursts open, puffing pepper-laced dust into the suspect's face, he said.

Roger Behrendt, president of Jaycor Tactical Systems, said the ball feels like a bullet when it hits.

"When you get hit, you're disoriented, you suck in the pepper and you can't breathe," he said. Behrendt should know, he has been shot hundreds of times in tests.

The company has already sold the system to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, the San Diego Sheriff's Office and the San Diego Swat Team.

See PEPPER, Page A1

# PEPPER

From Page A1

Beery said.

Fairfax County would be the first large jurisdiction on the East Coast using the pepperballs if the police department decides to buy the alternative ammunition.

Beery, a former Swat Team member and jail officer, said that often suspects have surrendered

after seeing the guns used to shoot the pepperballs. The rifles and pistols are unfamiliar and intimidating to many criminals.

The pepperballs are shot using pressurized air bottles attached to the butt of the rifle. Pistols use a carbon dioxide cartridge—both guns are similar to paint ball weapons, he said.

Perhaps the biggest gain brought by a pepperball gun is distance. The balls contain the same amount of chemical as officers use

in a hand-held sprayer, Beery said. However, an officer must be within at least 15 feet, or closer, to a subject before pepper spray works.

The guns can be shot from up to 30 feet away and still hit their target with accuracy, he said.

After explaining the gun and showing a video of the guns being used, both in jails and at the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle last year, Beery took the Fairfax officers outside for a live demonstration.

None of the officers volunteered to be shot so a dummy was used in the back lot of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly.

Beery shot rounds of balls, with no pepper dust, into a torso, leaving visible indentions where the balls hit the dummy's shirt.

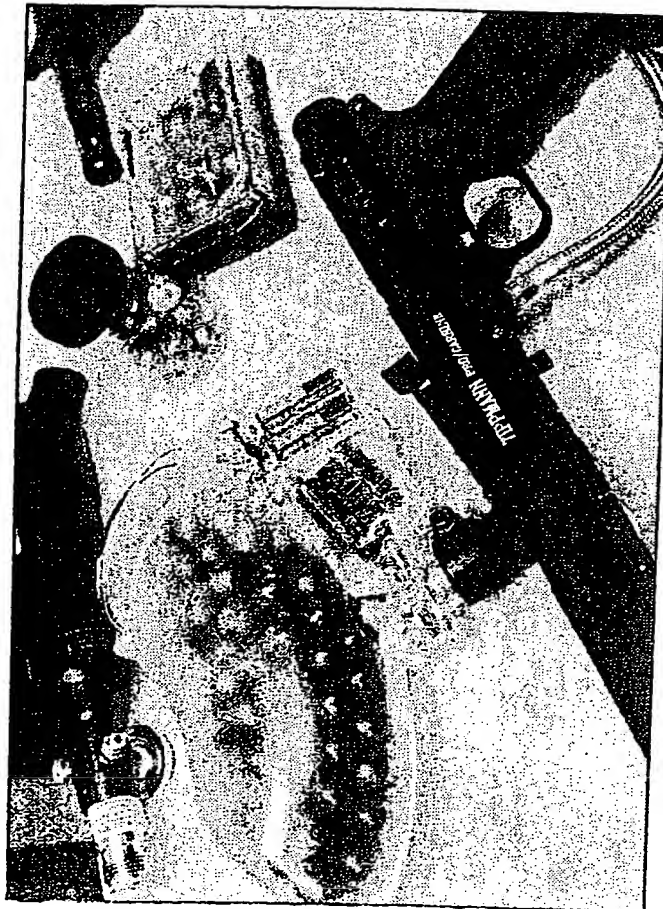
Beery cautioned the officers not to shoot a suspect in the face because the balls, traveling at 320 feet per second, could damage eyes.

Maj. Gary Ball, who helped encourage Jaycor to demonstrate its product, said he was interested in the system.

"It could be a bargain in terms of lives and civil litigation," he said.

But that bargain won't be cheap. Every live ball costs a little over \$1 and a rifle could cost about \$675.

However, the pepperballs are always non-lethal, unlike the potentially lethal bean-bag rounds Fairfax officers currently use.



Times Staff Photos/Tin Nguyen

**ALTERNATIVE:** New firearms that shoot pepperballs are being introduced to Fairfax County police. The pepper balls, an alternative to lethal weapons, offer greater distance effectiveness than made.



# The Star-News

Serving Chula Vista, National City, Bonita and Eastlake

March 18, 2000

## Non-lethal weapons give police options

**Laura Mallgren**  
Reporter

**N**ational City police will soon have a couple of alternatives to using deadly force when confronting a threatening suspect.

The National City City Council unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday that gives the police department the go-ahead to purchase two new weapons touted as being less than lethal.

After receiving training in their use, all patrol officers will be issued both weapons.

The weapons could save lives, said police Chief Skip DiCerchio.

Their purpose is to incapacitate dangerous suspects when situations call for using lethal force.

Use of the weapons would both enhance officer's safety and reduce the risk of injuring suspects, according to DiCerchio.

One is a pepper ball system. When fired, a plastic ball filled with powdered OC gas, similar to tear gas, strikes the suspect. The ball,

which travels at 350 feet per second, deploys the gas upon impact.

The weapon can be fired from up to 30 feet away.

While the suspect is incapacitated, police can take him into custody.

In event the gas doesn't work, which could occur when someone is under the influence of some narcotics or is able to withstand the effects of the gas, police would be able to use an air taser.

The taser fires a probe that attacks the central nervous system and directly controls the skeletal muscles, instantly incapacitating the suspect, according to a staff report.

At this time, a different model of tasers is issued to limited staff.

Although the field supervisor has such a weapon, DiCerchio said, "sometimes these folks don't give us time to get the equipment."

Case in point: In September, National City police confronted a man armed with a knife who threat-

ened to kill his mother and the officers. A police canine and field supervisor with a taser had been requested by the officers, DiCerchio said. While the supervisor was en route, the man charged police, who fatally shot him.

DiCerchio said he believes the fatality could have been avoided had the officers had the other weapons available.

This was the only fatal shooting by a National City police officer in the past five years, he said, adding,

however, that a similar situation could arise tomorrow.

Technology for both weapons recently became available, he said, adding that the equipment will be ordered immediately.

The new equipment will cost about \$41,000; \$35,000 will come out of the police department's 2000 budget, and \$6,000 from an asset seizure account.

DiCerchio said the National City Police Department will be the first law enforcement agency in the county to issue both weapons to all patrol officers.

"I'm sure every chief in the county," is considering similar measures, he said.

# New Weapon Packs Heat

## PepperBall Piques Police Interest, Gets Raves

By Tom Jackman, Washington Post Staff Writer

Even before it hit the market, PepperBall made a dramatic splash in the world of law enforcement.

A San Diego company, Jaycor Tactical Systems, had the idea to use the technology of paintball--spheres of paint encased in gelatin, used in mock war games--for police work, by placing the active ingredients of pepper spray in the ball instead of paint. The ball explodes on impact, releasing pepper resin to incapacitate its target. As some police departments began testing it, word of PepperBall spread quickly. Seattle police got a jump on the product's scheduled January release by using PepperBall launchers during the civil unrest that accompanied the World Trade Organization talks there late last year.

Now, police in Northern Virginia are considering whether to add PepperBall to their arsenals. After Jaycor representatives gave a demonstration and training session at the Fairfax County police academy last week, Arlington decided to buy at least one PepperBall Launcher, while Fairfax and Alexandria police gave the new weapon an early thumbs-up.

As with paintball, a PepperBall sphere inflicts a sharp sting on impact. But PepperBall adds oleoresin capsicum to the mix, using an extract of jalapeno and habanero peppers, the same ingredients in the pepper spray widely used by police, Jaycor President Roger Behrendt said. When inhaled, the pepper resin irritates the lungs, leading to coughing, shortness of breath and, sometimes, vomiting and burning in the eyes.

And that, police say, provides an excellent intermediate step for officers who currently must choose between hand-to-hand combat or deadly force in some situations.

Other intermediate measures now in use have drawbacks, police say. The original pepper spray is good, as long as it isn't windy or rainy, and the officer is close to the target. Police also can shoot beanbag rounds tucked inside shotgun shells, but they have questioned their accuracy. With electric tasers, a dart attached to a wire must touch the target to deliver an electric shock.

PepperBall is said to be highly accurate as far as 30 feet away; even when it lands near its target, the pepper resin can incapacitate. Powered by carbon dioxide gas, a launcher can fire 12 rounds per second. And the balls are made of plastic, making them more stable and reliable than paintballs.

In San Diego, where police are testing about a dozen of the guns, "the officers are pretty fired up about it," said Lt. Ray Shay, of the SWAT unit. Police there have used PepperBall twice in recent weeks, he said.

In the first incident, PepperBall rounds were launched into the bedroom of a suicidal man, causing him to retreat into a closet, where he was captured, Shay said. In the second episode, a man armed with a knife was shot repeatedly with beanbag rounds but kept coming until he was hit with PepperBall rounds, Shay said. "He dropped the knife," the lieutenant said.

Capt. Richard Alt, commander of Arlington's emergency response team, said he spoke with Seattle police after their World Trade Organization experience with PepperBall. "They said it was very effective. With the PepperBall gun, you can target specific people if you want to, and it reduces the amount of contamination to the surrounding area," Alt said.

He has submitted a request to buy a PepperBall Launcher, and a county police officer has been trained how to use it.

Alexandria police Lt. Pete Crawford, head of the special operations section, said, "We're looking at getting the weapon out on the street because it is a less lethal application." There's a plus for police as well, Crawford said: "If you look at when the OC [pepper] spray was introduced, the amount of officer injuries dropped dramatically."

Fairfax police Maj. Gary Ball, of the operations support bureau, said he found PepperBall impressive during last week's demonstration. In addition to stand-offs and barricade situations, Ball said, jail officers could use the guns to calm prisoners. The Fairfax sheriff's department, which monitors the county jail, is looking at the technology.

Ball said Fairfax wants to examine the liability aspects of PepperBall before committing to it. But Craig Beery, who trains police in the system's use for Jaycor, said courts have cleared pepper spray as a reasonable use of force.

Seattle police declined to discuss their use of PepperBall, but Beery said, "We've gotten a lot of interest from around the country since Seattle."



News And Features; Stay In Touch

Stay In Touch

Edited By Matt Buchanan; James O'loghlin; David Dale

03/09/2000

Sydney Morning Herald

Page 24

Copyright of John Fairfax Group Pty Lt

### Go go gadgets

In a move that sounded on par with handing Dracula the keys to the blood bank, it was announced yesterday that the New York Police, under fire for the deaths of unarmed civilians, are to be equipped with "James Bond-like gadgets to fight criminals or thwart their activities". But upon investigation, the move is more a swords-into-plough-shares sort of thing. Well, guns into blowdryers anyway. According to a news report, one of these "gadgets" is a hand-held device that looks like a hair dryer but can detect a knife or a gun up to four metres away, emitting an alarm when its pulse detects a weapon. No-one quite knows what it does when it detects a perm, split ends or dry, damaged hair. The Justice Department invested \$500,000 in developing the device ... and no doubt has made an appointment for next Tuesday for a tint, dry and set. Another little zinger in the armoury is a rifle shooting projectiles filled with disabling powder, called the PepperBall gun. Which is nice. And, the report continued, experts (yes, experts!) are developing portable DNA laboratories that can analyse biological samples like saliva in minutes. Yum. But one gadget that has received much attention is a camera that can scan crowds and recognise individuals whose facial traits belong to criminals catalogued by authorities. So next time you're in New York and a copper zaps you with PepperBall, points his hairdryer at you and apprehends you for looking like Al Capone you'll know what to say. Blow me.

# PepperBalliques Police Interest, Gets Fives

By TOM JACKMAN  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Even before it hit the market, PepperBall made a dramatic splash in the world of law enforcement.

A San Diego company, Jaycor Tactical Systems, had the idea to use the technology of paintball—spheres of paint encased in gelatin, used in mock war games—for police work, by placing the active ingredients of pepper spray in the ball instead of paint. The ball explodes on impact, releasing pepper resin to incapacitate its target. As some police departments began testing it, word of PepperBall spread quickly. Seattle police

got a jump on the product's scheduled January release by using PepperBall launchers during the civil unrest that accompanied the World Trade Organization talks there late last year.

Now, police in Northern Virginia are considering whether to add PepperBall to their arsenals. After Jaycor representatives gave a demonstration and training session at the Fairfax County police academy last week, Arlington decided to buy at least one PepperBall launcher, while Fairfax and Alexandria police gave the new weapon an early thumbs-up.

See PEPPERBALL, Page 2, Col. 4

## Police Seek Alternative Weapon

PEPPERBALL, From Page 1

As with paintball, a PepperBall sphere inflicts a sharp sting on impact. But PepperBall adds oleoresin in capsicum to the mix, using an extract of jalapeno and habanero peppers, the same ingredients in the pepper spray widely used by police, Jaycor President Roger Behrendt said. When inhaled, the pepper resin irritates the lungs, leading to coughing, shortness of breath and, sometimes, vomiting and burning in the eyes.

And that, police say, provides an excellent intermediate step for officers who currently must choose between hand-to-hand combat or deadly force in some situations.

Other intermediate measures now in use have drawbacks, police say. The original pepper spray is good, as long as it isn't windy or rainy, and the officer is close to the target. Police also can shoot beanbag rounds tucked inside shotgun shells, but they have questioned their accuracy. With electric tasers, a dart attached to a wire must touch the target to deliver an electric shock.

PepperBall is said to be highly accurate as far as 30 feet away; even when it lands near its target, the pepper resin can incapacitate. Powered by carbon dioxide gas, a launcher can fire 12 rounds per second. And the balls are made of plastic, making them more stable and reliable than paintballs.

In San Diego, where police are testing about a dozen of the guns, "the officers are pretty fired up about it," said Lt. Ray Shay, of the SWAT unit. Police there have used PepperBall twice in recent weeks, he said.

In the first incident, PepperBall

rounds were launched into the bedroom of a suicidal man, causing him to retreat into a closet, where he was captured, Shay said. In the second episode, a man armed with a knife was shot repeatedly with beanbag rounds but kept coming until he was hit with PepperBall rounds, Shay said. "He dropped the knife," the lieutenant said.

Capt. Richard Alt, commander of Arlington's emergency response team, said he spoke with Seattle police after their World Trade Organization experience with PepperBall. "They said it was very effective. With the PepperBall gun, you can target specific people if you want to, and it reduces the amount of contamination to the surrounding area," Alt said.

He has submitted a request to buy a PepperBall launcher, and a county police officer has been trained how to use it.

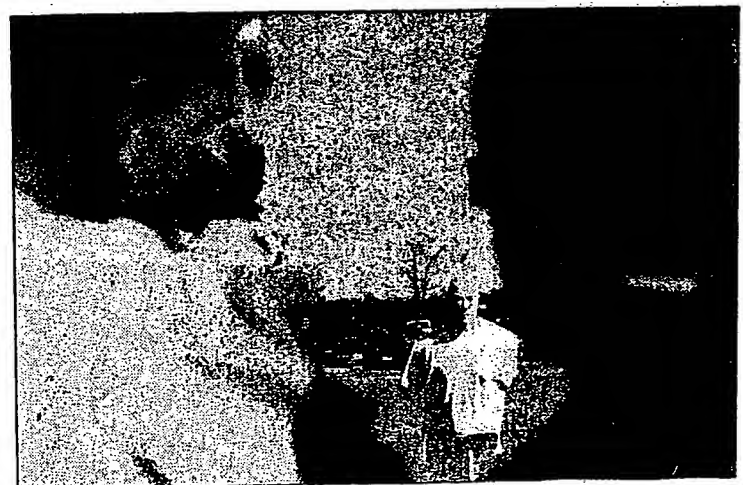
Alexandria police Lt. Pete Crawford, head of the special operations section, said, "We're looking at getting the weapon out on the street

because it is a less lethal application." There's a plus for police as well, Crawford said: "If you look at when the OC [pepper] spray was introduced, the amount of officer injuries dropped dramatically."

Fairfax police Maj. Gary Ball, of the operations support bureau, said he found PepperBall impressive during last week's demonstration. In addition to stand-offs and barricade situations, Ball said, jail officers could use the guns to calm prisoners. The Fairfax sheriff's department, which monitors the county jail, is looking at the technology.

Ball said Fairfax wants to examine the liability aspects of PepperBall before committing to it. But Craig Beery, who trains police in the system's use for Jaycor, said courts have cleared pepper spray as a reasonable use of force.

Seattle police declined to discuss their use of PepperBall, but Beery said, "We've gotten a lot of interest from around the country since Seattle."



Officers test-fire PepperBalls, which release pepper resin on impact.

# New York Report

+ YNE H

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

The New York Times

## Police Gadgets Aim to Fight Crime With 007-Style Ingenuity

By KEVIN FLYNN

What if New York City police officers were routinely equipped with hand-held weapon detectors that could tell them from a distance whether a suspect was armed?

What if patrol cars had portable minilabs that analyzed DNA so fast that officers, using a strand of a suspect's hair, could determine within minutes whether he was the right, or the wrong, man?

What if video cameras at Kennedy International Airport could scan thousands of faces, electronically compare them with a database of photographs, and alert the authorities when the image of a traveler matched that of a fugitive or a terrorist?

If these sound like the idle dreams of an Ian Fleming fan, do not blink. Experts say this assortment of Bond-like gadgets could transform the way suspects are captured and prosecuted, and might be ready in just a few years. A face-scanning surveillance sys-

This month, representatives of a California company, Jaycor, are coming to New York to demonstrate the PepperBall, a launcher that uses compressed air to shoot projectiles filled with a disabling powder similar to pepper spray.

Later this year, federal researchers plan to test with the police a new type of metal detector in the city's schools. They say it could speed the scanning of students by distinguishing between the ferrous metal of a gun and the nonferrous metals often used in jewelry.

"There is no other agency like the N.Y.P.D.," said Craig Beery, director of sales for the PepperBall. "They are the influence maker in the market."

Jaycor is also developing a hand-held detector of concealed weapons that should be available in a few years, said Jeremy Travis, director of the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the Justice Department. The federal government has invested more than \$300,000 in the weapons detector. It emits a sonic pulse, and when a knife or gun is present, the pulse is reflected back, triggering an alarm and a light. Mr. Travis said tests on the device had shown that it worked at a distance of up to 12 feet.

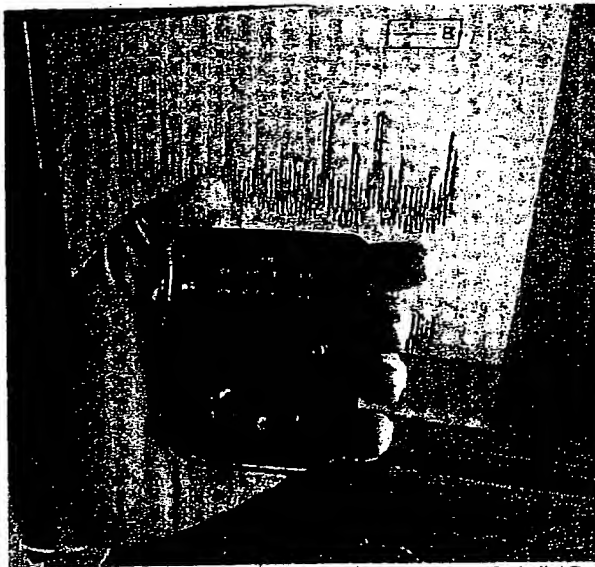
In her remarks on Sunday, Mrs. Clinton, who is running against Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani for the Senate, said aggressive street searches for weapons under Mr. Giuliani's leadership had sown mistrust in minority neighborhoods. She proposed increasing federal spending on research "so that we can create gun detectors that can scan city streets and pinpoint guns, reducing the need for stop-and-frisks."

Like many new technologies, the detector spawned both excitement and skepticism at the crime commission's breakfast. One former police official asked about investment opportunities with the manufacturer. Another, former Commissioner William J. Bratton, said the prototype looked too much like a gun and would only increase tensions in a street encounter. "I wouldn't invest 2 cents in that thing," he said.

Peter Coakley of Jaycor later said he welcomed the criticisms. "We could give it a flatter, paddle look to make it less threatening," he said.

Even when new gadgets work perfectly, they often raise concerns about the invasion of privacy and the erosion of civil liberties.

One innovation that has fostered both high hopes and privacy concerns is the facial recognition technology being used in the Newham section of London. Newham had been plagued with high crime rates



Even Richman for The New York Times



Michael Pache for The New York Times

Craig Beery, above, works for a California company that is developing a hand-held weapon detector that works at a distance to tell officers whether a suspect is armed. A portable miniature laboratory, top, that analyzes DNA in minutes is under development in Cambridge, Mass.

for years, but security officials say crime has dropped 30 percent since November 1993, when the video surveillance system was installed.

A total of 247 cameras are posted at busy locations, like subway stops. When a camera is hooked up to the software, faces are repeatedly captured and matched against a list of Newham's 100 most troublesome criminals. When there is a match,

the police are alerted, and they either dispatch an officer or record the sighting so there is a potential suspect if a crime is later reported.

So far, the system has not led to any arrests, but Bob Lack, Newham's security manager, said it had been a deterrent.

The facial recognition system was developed by Visionics of Jersey City. Joseph J. Atlick, the com-

pany's president, said one potential use of the product in New York would be at an airport, where a camera at the bottom of an escalator could capture 60 to 100 faces a minute, then instantly compare them with a list of terrorists.

The software works by mapping a face, identifying markers that make it unique, like the distance between the nose and mouth.

To address privacy concerns, the authorities in Britain say, they discard all the images that are not true matches. But such systems still concern people like Marc Rotenberg, the executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington. He worries that surveillance will become a routine that it will result in "the investigation and tracking of people in public places without any reason to believe they are engaged in wrongdoing," he said.

Despite the heightened expectations about what these 007-style technologies would be able to achieve, the United States government does not spend much on research or development, Mr. Travis said. His agency spent \$55 million on such research last fiscal year while the federal energy research budget topped \$2 billion.

Mr. Travis was among the experts who said new, more efficient devices often pay for themselves. The portable DNA labs under development, for example, would make it easier for police officers to collect and analyze samples without the use of an outside laboratory, experts said. Each portable lab could cost more than \$20,000, but police officials could reduce outside laboratory fees sharply, the expert said.

The portable labs, which could be widely available in three years, use a DNA analysis chip about the size of a credit card. Saliva or other biological material from a suspect is fed into a channel in the chip. It travels past a laser that reads 1 DNA markers, creating a profile of the suspect.

The chips can identify the markers in about two minutes, according to Dan Ehrlich, director of a DNA minilab project at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass. Comparing them with a central database would then take about 12 minutes, he said.

"If the laws were written in such a way," Dr. Ehrlich said, "some local police officer in some unnamed Southern state may pull over a suspect for drunk driving or having a headlight out, and he may be able to extract a DNA sample of saliva and punch it back into the computer and find that the guy was wanted for something else in the state of New York."

### High-tech weapons get a test run in New York.

tem is already in use in one London neighborhood. And at a campaign appearance in Manhattan on Sunday, Hillary Rodham Clinton called for increased federal spending on research to improve police technology, including gun detectors.

Prototypes of some new gadgets were showcased in New York in January at a breakfast symposium held by the Citizens Crime Commission. "We are beginning to see a technological revolution in law enforcement of such immense dimensions that I don't think anyone knows really where it will go," said Thomas A. Reppetto, president of the commission, a nonprofit city organization that reviews issues in law enforcement.

The New York Police Department, the country's largest, plays an important role in the field, largely because it is often the entry point for technological innovations. Compstat, the computer mapping system that tracks crime patterns, spread across the country after taking root in New York.

"We are constantly being approached by companies, vendors who want to sell us their products or want us to test their products," Police Commissioner Howard Safir said in an interview last month.

## Police try new weapon

By NORMAN MILLER

Staff Writer

CONCORD - When the World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle was interrupted last year by protesters, SWAT teams responded with what looked to be modified paint ball guns.

However, the weapons were actually state-of-the-art equipment in less-than-lethal weaponry - a PepperBall System.

"They're very unique," said Craig Beery, a sales representative from Jaycor Tactical Systems, the designers of PepperBall. "They combine kinetic energy and a gaseous release. The marriage of these two simple technologies have come together to form this."

On Tuesday, 57 law enforcement and department of correction officers from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Maine, gathered at the Police Academy, to get a demonstration on the new equipment, as well as being certified to use it. The Merrimack County Department of Corrections, along with the Police Academy, sponsored the event.

A PepperBall, a small .68 caliber plastic ball, can be shot out of various types of specialized guns, ranging from pistols to semi-automatic and automatic rifles. On impact, the ball explodes, releasing oleoresin capsicum (OC), the same chemical used in pepper spray.

The advantages of PepperBalls, Beery said, over pepper spray, are many. They can be shot from long distances so police personnel maintain a safe distance from the shot. Also, they can be used on large groups of people.

"It's accurate for a person up to 30 feet, and for a crowd up to 100 feet," said Lt. James Topham of the Merrimack County Department of Corrections. "It's not a cure-all. It's not a save-all. It's able to add to what's already being done."

Topham was used as a guinea pig, being shot several times by the gun to show what type of physical damage it could do, leaving him bruised after the testing.

Topham said the PepperBall System is exceptional for his line of work.

"It's perfect for any correctional facility," said Topham. "I think any director of a facility should look at these."

Sgt. David Berry of the Belknap County Department of Corrections agreed.

"I think it's great, and I think it has great applications for corrections," said Berry. "It's effective, and it doesn't cause any serious injuries. There's probably less chance of an injury than when it's hands-on, wrestling with people. I hope we get it in Belknap. It's needed. It would save a lot of injuries to inmates, as well as staff."

Sgt. R.A. Grenier, also of the Belknap County Department of Corrections, said just having PepperBalls would be a deterrent.

"The inmates are very aware when something is going on," said Grenier. "If they see someone walking down the hall with one of these things, they'll rush back to their cells."

PepperBall systems range in price from \$555 to nearly \$1,500, and some can hold 200 rounds.

## Unbearable beeps

Researchers seeking less disruptive sounds for technology. **Currents&Arts**



## Can you name it?

Company rockets from obscurity to 3rd-biggest in San Diego. **Business**



## High-tech taxes

Online filing saves taxpayers time, reduces IRS costs. **Computerlink**

Tuesday

February 22, 2000

The San Diego

# Union-Tribune

North County

35¢  
for circulation

## When should cops shoot? Answer is far from simple

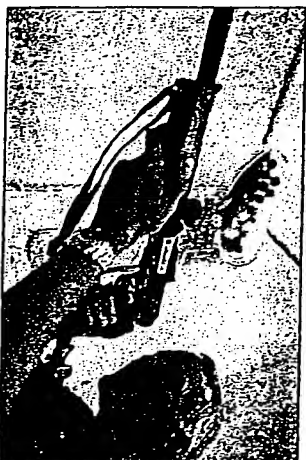
By Melly Thomlin  
STAFF WRITER

His heart was louder than the distant sound of his gun going off five times. Every motion seemed infinite, though in truth it was less than two seconds. A dying man fell at his feet and stared up at him.

In the hours and days after the loud-wielding, mentally disturbed man attacked him, things got worse for San Diego police Officer Dennis Johnson.

"No amount of training prepared me for what happened after the shooting," said Johnson, now

See POLICE on Page A9



HOWARD LIPKIN / Union-Tribune

**Creative solutions:** Craig Berry of Jaycor Tactical Systems demonstrated a gun that shoots plastic balls containing pepper powder. Police Chief David Bejarano has expanded the use of nonlethal weapons.

## DUCK AND COVER

**MIS. MARKET** 2885  
PRODUCE • BEER • WINE • GROCERY • BOOKS • MAGAZINES

## Taiwanese get tough warning from China

Delay in reunification talks may force attack, Beijing says

By Eth Eschholm, NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

**BEIJING** — Less than one month before presidential elections in Taiwan, the Chinese government yesterday released the bluntest warning yet that it will not wait indefinitely for the island to reunite with the mainland, declaring that a prolonged lack of negotiation, in itself, could provoke a military attack.

The Chinese long have made it clear that any move by Taiwan toward formal independence would lead to war.

But yesterday's government report on Taiwan adds — for the first time in such a definitive statement — that if Taiwan refuses indefinitely to pursue "the peaceful settlement of cross-strait reunification through negotiations, then the Chinese government will only be forced to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use

# Officers say public doesn't understand what they face

(Continued from A-1)

More than two decades later, police officers are still facing the questions. Why, the public will ask, didn't you shoot him in the legs? How about using a police dog, or an old-fashioned baton? Why, in this era of high technology, did they not resort to beanbag rounds, nets, tasers or guns that pellets laced with pepper spray? Many officers who put their lives on the line to protect the public find questions ignorant and often insulting. The public, they say, has no idea what they face on the streets. The answers are far from simple. To figure out why police officers, their weapons, one must consider the history and culture of the police and the philosophies of its policies and the public's level of interest, the police's budget, and departmental politics.

## Training statistics

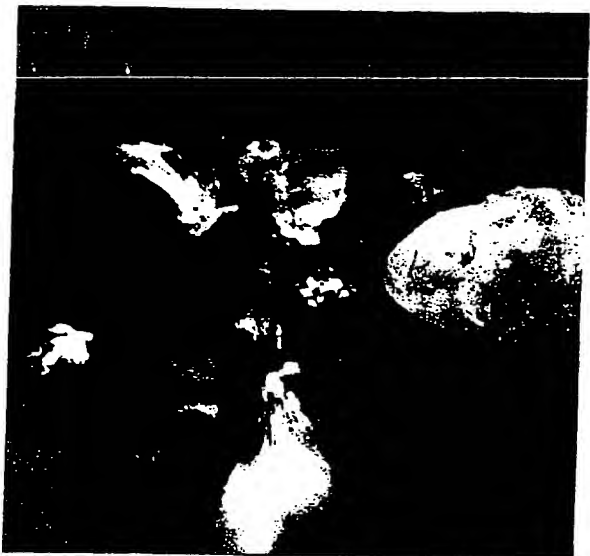
In 1985, the San Diego Police Department's officer mortality rate was the highest of any major law enforcement agency in the United States, with 10 officers slain in the line of duty between 1977 and 1985. The same time, San Diego was rated second-highest in number of officers assaulted and injured. Officials were so alarmed they created an Officer Safety Task Force, and members spent 22,000 hours over six months coming up with 119 recommendations to prevent killings. Two officers have been killed on duty in the 15 years since.

The most significant changes in training required all officers to wear armor and placing an emphasis on survival skills. Instructors at the "circle" philosophy, based on the idea that officers should allow knife-wielding suspects within a 21-foot zone were to be slashed and killed unless fired their guns.

The department also created a unit, bought a helicopter and earned training, simulation, and rules for officers to protect other at crime scenes.

The result was a steep drop in the number of officers slain, and, to the chagrin of then-Chief Rob Burgren, a record number of shoot-out deaths, including a series of universal killings of people brandishing such items as a cement block, a stick, or nothing.

Concerned Burgren scrapped the philosophy, and training began to emphasize the so-called "force continuum," which officers to use increasing force, starting with verbal communication and escalating to physical force.



Howard Lim, a man who was hit by plastic balls filled with baby powder, which were used to simulate balls containing pepper powder shot from a gun powered by compressed air—a nonlethal weapon for law enforcement.

## Pepper spray and batons when possible

More nonlethal weapons, such as rubber bullets, pepper spray and the first electric stun guns were given to some officers. Burgren added Verbal Judo, training to increase the use of communication to avoid violence, and he increased the number of police dogs to 44 from 21.

Shootings declined from a high of 30 in 1980 to 13 and eight in the following two years, and a gentle balance was struck. No officer deaths, and fewer shootings.

**Shooting cycles**  
Some department insiders say the balance is tilting in the wake of controversial shootings reminiscent of the Burgren era.

"The pendulum is swinging again," said one police official. Others agreed, saying shooting trends are predictable.

"This is all very cyclical. It goes around every 10 to 15 years," said a veteran San Diego police sergeant. "We went through all this before. The officers died, then we started killing people again and we added tasers and mace and we added spray."

Like Burgren, current San Diego Police Chief David Beltrano has found himself fending off criticism in connection with shootings. Including, most recently, that of a homeless man wielding a 3-foot-long tree branch.

gun, rocks and knives, a waving stick and a sharpened tree branch. The most controversial police killings in recent memory include those of William Miller and Denise Dubois.

On Feb. 8, Miller, a 42-year-old transient who ran toward officers wielding a branch, was shot seven times in front of a Midway Drive McDonald's restaurant.

And Dubois, a 28-year-old former NFL player, was fatally shot in Mission Beach in July by officers investigating a report of a burglary in progress. Dubois, who was on drugs, wrestled with the officers and took their tasers. Back leaders questioned whether the shooting was racialized.

## Misplaced guns

Whatever the public perception, the vast majority of officers around the nation never fire their guns on duty.

Nationwide, police appear to be using force in less than 1 percent of more than 9 million calls for service, according to research by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which created the National Police Use of Force Database in 1986. Many law enforcement experts say officers tend to avoid physical confrontations for a variety of reasons.

In the spirit of community-oriented policing, the philosophy that partners officers with residents to fight crime, officers are being encouraged to use words and not force.

In the aftermath of the Rodney King debate, the public has become more disapproving of physical force. And, as society becomes more litigious, officers are afraid of consequences even when such force is necessary.

"If there is to be officers were to jump a person and you drive by, the last thing that would cross your mind is Rodney King," said Sgt. Reggie Frank, firearms trainer at the police shooting range. "It has to start with community support. If the force is reasonable, we need the community's support."

Veterans say that today's rookies, perhaps with less brawn and more brain, are less confident of their fighting skills and prefer not to test them.

But some say that leads to officers using firearms more often. As one veteran put it, "I would have never drawn my gun on a homeless guy with the stick. It's all about confidence, how confident you feel in your ability to handle a situation. When you run out of confidence, the guns are drawn. The less experience, the less confidence. That sentiment is echoed by some critics."

Most police officials agree that 20 or 30 years ago, the situation with Miller, the stick-wielding transient, would have been handled very differently. Miller might have been bat-

tered and bruised, but he most likely would be alive.

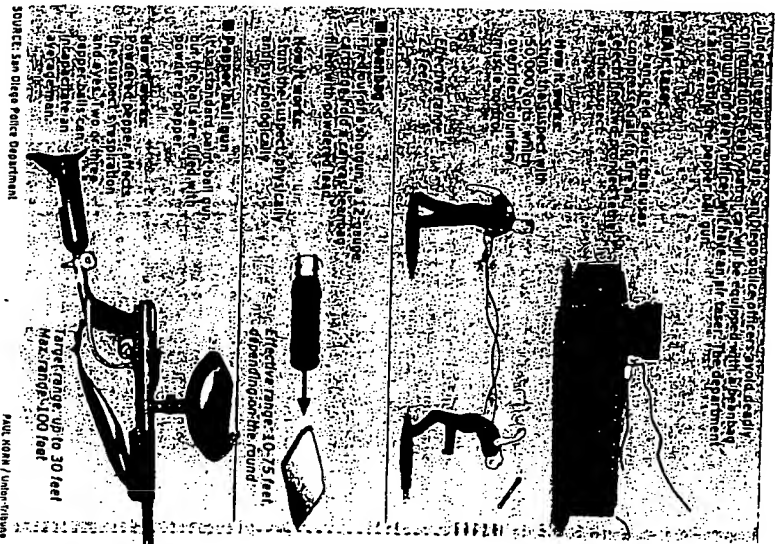
"I've had the crap knocked out of me so many times. There was no recourse on our part to go to fast city," said former San Diego Police Chief Ray Hoobler, who retired in 1975 after a long law enforcement career. "Tim a Neanderthal, but I think it was right or I wouldn't have gone 25 years without doing my gun."

Assistant Chief John Weller called Hoobler's remarks outdated, saying today's officers must contend with such social issues as homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence and child abuse.

Back in his day, we didn't lead the nation in officers killed in the line of duty," Weller said. "Are today's officers less tough, then?"

"They're not wimps," Hoobler said. "I think they're very concerned about their future. As long as the public is so against the use of force, the officers are backed into a corner. They're damned if they do and damned if they don't."

**Stop the threat**  
Police are not trained to shoot to kill, despite the popularly held belief to the contrary. They are taught to



stop the threat. There is no established limit to the number of times an officer may pull the trigger.

The notion that an officer should opt to shoot a suspect in the leg or arm is considered ludicrous by many law enforcers for this reason: With the combination of adrenalin and a moving target, it's a wonder officers hit their mark as often as they do.

"That's a great public myth," said Johnson, the officer involved in the 1978 shooting. He is now a deputy training sergeant. "There are probably a few officers on the whole department who could hit a hand or a leg on a moving target. Most cops have trouble hitting center mass."

Johnson has no doubt that he had to shoot at that moment or forfeit his own life. He knows he had to fire five times, because the man kept coming at him with a raised knife.

Yet after every officer-involved shooting, as departments explore innovative ways to keep officers and the public safe at the same time, people will still wonder, as Johnson and countless other officers still do, "Did I do everything right?"

Library researchers Michelle Gilmartin, Denise Davidson and Beth Wood contributed to this report.



now  
ARE forking OVER

Local

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL WEATHER

LOCAL SPORTS

MORE CITIES

WRITEUS

NEW STORY



News

Business

Sports

Local

Health

Technology

Living » Travel

TV News

Opinions

Weather

Shop@MSNBC

MSN.com

San Diego, CA

Station Home Page & More Local Information



NBC 7/39

This rifle, developed by La Jolla-based Jaycor, shoots "pepper balls," used to subdue a suspect without causing fatal injuries. It is one of the non-lethal weapons to be added to San Diego Police arsenal.



Andrew Resnik

## Cops to get non-lethal weapons

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 17 — San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano said Thursday he wants to arm all patrol officers with more non-lethal weapons. The move comes following recent fatal police shootings that have caused an outcry in the community.

[COMPLETE STORY](#) →

### MSNBC COVERAGE

[STORY](#) Police release videotape of shooting

### LINKS, SITES & MEDIA

MSNBC not responsible for content of Internet links

[INTERNET](#) Comment to mayor on police deadly force policy

San Diego Police Chief David  
Bejarano



NBC 7/39

\*\*\*\*Bejarano planned to unveil the changes next Tuesday at a City Council workshop addressing the department's deadly force policy. But because of mounting pressure, he outlined his proposals early.

\*\*\*\*They come as a result of a review started after the fatal police shooting of former NFL player Demetrius DuBose in Mission Beach last July. After officers shot and killed William Miller in the Midway area last week, Bejarano told his staff to speed the process up.

\*\*\*\*It was simply taking a little bit too long in my opinion and I wanted to be sure we move along as quickly as we can, Bejarano said.

\*\*\*\*In response to pressure from city council members and outrage in the

community, the chief outlined a three-point strategy to reduce the number of police shootings.

\*\*\*\*He wants to give every patrol officer beanbag shotguns and air Taser guns, two popular non-lethal weapons.

\*\*\*\*In addition, officers will receive new training, not just in using the weapons but how to avoid using any weapons.

\*\*\*\*Finally, Bejarano said will allow an independent review of the department's use-of-force policy.

\*\*\*\*We have the same goal as the entire community has and that is we want to save lives, Bejarano said. We should see more and more of these incidents resolved without the shots being fired.

\*\*\*\*The City Council workshop is open to the public. It will be held at City Hall Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. Mayor Susan Golding is soliciting public opinion before the meeting. You can register your comments by clicking on the link above.

\*\*\*\*San Diego police have shot and killed three people this year. Five were killed last year and three in 1998. The changes Bejarano outlined were welcomed by those critical of past officer-involved shootings.

\*\*\*\*I think if we take a few extra steps in that direction I think we can do a great service for not only San Diego but for the rest of the country, said African-American community leader Sydney Ethridge.

\*\*\*\*The new non-lethal weapons and training are expected to cost around \$300,000. Bejarano hopes to have both in place within the next six months.

\*\*\*\*Another non-lethal weapon that will be given to police SWAT officers is a pepper ball gun made by La Jolla-based Jaycor. The rifles launch shells with a powder version of pepper spray. The San Diego County Sheriff's Department started using the weapons last month and have used them three times.

\*\*\*\*In all those cases, we know there were no injuries and we subdued the people we were using it on and that's what we want to do, said Sheriff's Capt. Dennis Cole. If we can take people in custody without any injuries



# S.D. police fire bean bags, pepper pellets to subdue man with knife

By Kelly Thornton  
STAFF WRITER

— LOMITA — San Diego police used a bean-bag shotgun and a pepper ball gun to disarm a knife-wielding man who was threatening to commit suicide yesterday.

The 33-year-old man was hit six times with the bean-bag shells and fell to the ground, but he did not drop the knife until he was hit with pellets laced with pepper spray, said police spokesman Bill Robinson.

Officers arrived at the house on Carlsbad Street near Ashmore Avenue about 12:50 p.m. after the man called 911, telling a dispatcher of his plans of suicide, Robinson said.

Officer Ramona Hastings tried to negotiate with the man. When he did not agree to drop his hunter-style knife, SWAT Officers Marcos Ramsey and Wayne Doeden used the non-lethal weapons to subdue him. Only SWAT officers carry such weapons.

Officer Tom Lofton of the canine unit arrived with his police dog, but the dog was not needed, Robinson said.

The man, who was despondent over his father's health problems,

was taken to a hospital. He was bruised but not seriously injured, Robinson said.

The incident had a more favorable outcome than Tuesday's fatal police shooting of a 42-year-old mentally disturbed transient. Officers, called to investigate reports of a man threatening people with a stick, said they fired at William Anthony Miller Jr. as he lunged toward them with the 3-foot-long tree branch.

Police have been criticized for failing to use non-lethal weapons to subdue Miller during the confrontation in front of a McDonald's on Midway Drive in Point Loma Heights. Authorities said there wasn't enough time to call for SWAT officers or mental health experts.

Yesterday was different, Robinson said.

"The primary difference was the fact that the officers had time to assemble the resources which they didn't have at the Point Loma Heights incident," Robinson said, noting that yesterday's confrontation lasted almost an hour in contrast to Tuesday's, which was over in 10 minutes.



Mon Jan 15 16:47:01 EST 2001

## SEARCH ENGINE

2000 stories

Search

## Our Advertisers NEWS

Home  
local  
state  
weather

Communities

The Wire  
Sports  
Obituaries

## MARKET PLACE

Business  
Classifieds  
Real Estate  
Yellow Pages

## LEISURE

Polk Lifestyles  
Entertainment  
Weddings  
Religion  
Health & Fitness  
Cuisine  
Television  
Listings



# Sheriff's department tries pepper

By STEVEN N. LEVINE  
News Chief

BARTOW -- The Polk County Sheriff's Department special tactics team may have a surprise waiting for the next suspect who won't listen to reason.

Paintballs filled with pepper-based irritant are the latest stand-off weapon entering the department's considerable arsenal. Pingpong ball-sized rounds fired from a specially designed air rifle will break on contact splattering the suspect with talcum-based pepper powder.

Polk County is the only police agency on the East Coast using the new pepper rounds. The weapon is currently reserved for special tactics teams although the sheriff's department may soon equip field supervisors. Protestors at the recent NAFTA summit in Seattle were peppered with good results, said Lt. Ed Hill, the sheriff's department training supervisor.

Most times, the 10 percent oleoresin capsicum brings a suspect to his knees, Hill said. Law enforcement officials will look for that magic, nonlethal bullet that will help control individuals who are high on PCP or methylamphetamine when the officers attend a seminar in Vero Beach later this month, he said.



Lt. Ed Hill, the training section supervisor for the Polk County Sheriff's Office, unloads the Tippman SA 200 pepperball system. With exception of ammunition, the gun is the same weapon used for paintball.

*Charles Baker/News Chief*



The pepperball system allows officers to use nondeadly force from a safe distance.

*Charles Baker/News Chief*

Less-than-lethal force is the buzz word in policing today, said J. Darrell Kirkland, Winter Haven assistant police chief. The lawyers and the quantum rise in lawsuits nationally made it so, he said Friday. Using PR-24 side-handle batons or expandable batons, standard on most departments, expose officers and suspects to permanent injury. Handguns are a last resort.

"There are many more liability issues and lawsuits," Kirkland said, "and while lawsuits don't mean damages.

## INTERACTIVE

Opinion  
About Us  
Archives  
Internet 101  
Chats & Forums  
Personals

## SPECIAL SECTIONS

Star Wars  
FANATICZONE  
Hurricanes 1999  
Spring Bridal '99  
CFDC Annual Report  
Manufactured Homes



the liability issue makes you question how you do your job."

Less-than-lethal weapons help insure police that they won't look silly at some scenes, said Gene Lord, a sheriff's training officer. Police can't threaten suicidal suspects with deadly force, Lord said.

"We can't very well tell him put down the knife as we're drawing a gun," he said.

Another option is also needed to prevent despondent, armed suspects from purposely charging officers leaving them no alternative --Êa situation known as "suicide by cop."

The pepperball system generally fits between the hand-held pepper spray irritant and the "bean bag" round in the sheriff's continuum of force. Pepperball weapons produced by Jaycor can be fired at pointblank range as well as 50 feet away. The 2-gram balls hit with 6.16 foot-pounds of force, compared to 9.8 foot-pounds for a standard paintball round.

The 39-gram bean bag round, currently the primary special tactics team LTL round, hits with a force of 120 foot-pounds. The pepperball stings. A bean bag hurts --Êa lot, Hill said. "Peppering" a suspect with three-round is much safer than firing bean bags or rubber bullets, and faster, he said. Cleanup simply involves dusting and rinsing, he said. The launcher comes with a 150-round magazine.

The weapon's drawback is expense. The special compressed air rifle is \$500, more than the cost of a standard issue Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. The balls are about \$1.40 each although the price drops to \$1 when purchased in bulk.

Other Polk County police agencies use everything from pepperized "Silly String" to handheld stunguns and ballistic tasers that fire electrified prongs. Polk County jailers use an electrified riot shield to quell armed inmates.

Smaller agencies without specialized units must stick with the tried- and-true, Auburndale Police Chief Dean Longo said. His department will soon equip supervisors with shotgun-fired 12-gram beanbag rounds, Longo said. Keep it simple and give patrol officers less to think about while making that split-second decision, he said.

"With everything on the market, you could end up making the entire decision process burdensome," Longo said.

The issue doesn't rise and fall on the street. Local departments track every use of force incident. Winter Haven police are required to even justify a chokehold in writing. The report is reviewed at four to five levels ending in the chief's office.

"We're not going to sit here and try to second-guess what they do on the street, but we're an internationally accredited department," Kirkland said. "A daily self-evaluation is a requirement of that rating."

Until the standard Star Trek ray gun becomes standard issue, police will continue being second-guessed and second-guessing themselves, Kirkland said.

| [Local](#) | [State](#) | [National](#) | [International](#) | [AP](#) | [Sports](#) |  
[Business](#) |  
[Auburndale](#) | [Bartow](#) | [Babson Park](#) | [Davenport](#) | [Dundee](#) |  
[Eagle Lake](#) | [Frostproof](#) | [Haines City](#) | [Lake Alfred](#) | [Lake](#)  
[Wales](#) | [Winter Haven](#)

| [About Us](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Cuisine](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Health](#)  
& [Fitness](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Polk Lifestyles](#) |  
[Religion](#) | [Television Listings](#) | [Home](#) |

---

[webmaster@newschief.com](mailto:webmaster@newschief.com)

©2000 The News Chief

AP materials ©2000 Associated Press. All rights reserved.

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed  
without permission.

Flag Helium

Happy Valentine's Day!

# PARK LABREA NEWS

Volume 53 No. 6

Serving the Park Labrea and Wilshire Communities

February 10, 2000

## West Hollywood Deputies Testing Non-Lethal Guns

Pepper-Spray "Paint Balls" Designed to Disable Dangerous Suspects

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Three non-lethal air guns that authorities believe will help control unruly suspects without causing serious harm are being tested by deputies at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's West Hollywood Station.

The new guns, which are similar to those used in "paint-half" games, will give authorities an additional weapon in situations where a suspect is armed and dangerous or will not comply with police commands, officials said.

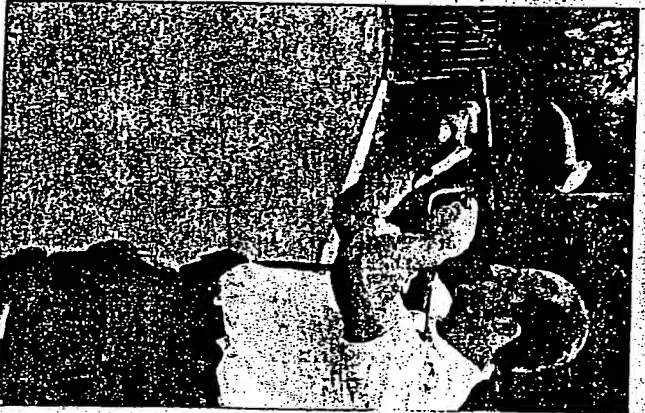
Deputies began carrying the guns in their cars about two months ago but have not yet encountered a situation where they have been needed. More practical than some current non-lethal devices like hand-held canisters of pepper spray, the guns fire a shot containing a pungent powder that explodes on contact and incapacitates a suspect several

yards away.

"They are an excellent tool that provides us with an extra option before a situation turns into a deadly force incident," said Capt. Richard Odenthal, who

heads the West Hollywood Station. "The idea is to give deputies up to 30 feet of distance between a person who may be belligerent or who is armed with a knife or some other type of hand-held weapon."

Odenhal said the new guns would likely have been useful in two officer-involved shootings that took



West Hollywood Sheriff's Deputy Mike Davis practices firing a new non-lethal air gun. Officials hope it will disable dangerous suspects.

## Guns Meant to Disable Dangerous Suspects

From page 1

place in West Hollywood last fall, which left one suspect dead and another suffering from gunshot wounds. While the incident involving the deceased suspect occurred so quickly that deputies were not able to use non-lethal devices, the new guns may have been effective in a second incident that occurred in the parking lot of the Pavilions Market near Santa Monica and San Vicente Boulevards.

"Unfortunately, we didn't have them when we had the shootings, but I believe they would have been useful," Odenthal added. "It's hard to say, though. At the Pavilions,

they used a stun bag gun and that had no effect."

In that case, a distraught woman who was brandishing a knife advanced on deputies as they tried to control the situation outside the supermarket. After using hand-held pepper spray and a stun bag gun with little effect, the deputies were forced to shoot the woman as she approached waving the knife.

With the new air guns, deputies can maintain a safe distance while firing a sufficient number of pepper spray capsules to incapacitate the suspect. The projectiles will cause a stinging when they hit, but a suspect could be hit several times and not suffer significant injuries, Odenthal added.

The guns are manufactured by Jaycor Industries in San Diego and work on the same concept as a paintball or pellet gun. They come in three variations — pis-

tol, compact rifle and full-size rifle — and use compressed air or gas to fire a projectile about the size of a marble.

The projectiles contain oleo capicum, a derivative of cayenne pepper, which is released as a powder in the air when the projectile strikes a target. The guns fire in either automatic or semi-automatic modes, allowing a deputy to disperse enough of the spray to stop an advancing suspect.

Odenhal said the new guns have been effective for authorities in San Diego County where they have been used during conflicts in the jails and in potentially life threatening situations on the streets. Several other sheriff's stations in Los Angeles County are also testing the devices, and sometimes just the rifle-like appearance of the guns can act as a deterrent.

"I've heard from some other stations that sometimes a suspect will surrender when they bring them out because they don't know what's going to happen," Odenthal added. "They can look pretty ominous."

See Guns page 16.

SPONSOR

QUIZ  
time

"The Starry Night" was painted by \_\_\_\_\_



www.channel2000.com

CBS 2000

news

SEARCH EMAIL HOME SITE MAP

## news

special assignment  
morning show  
consumer reports  
digital daily  
health  
Y2K  
what's right  
newsstand  
business news  
news tips  
cbs national

## news

special  
assignment  
weather  
entertainment  
sports  
money  
technology  
talkback!  
cbs2 on TV  
health  
travel  
las vegas  
traffic  
employment  
automotive  
online banking  
contests  
real estate  
yellow pages  
city guides  
law center  
education  
marketplace

## Shoot, Don't Kill

## A CBS 2 News Special Assignment



For police, it happens far too often. A suspect on drugs carrying a knife or using a truck as a weapon, and the only way to stop him is to kill him.

But that is about to change.

CBS 2 News' Drew Griffin shows you the latest in a new arsenal of weapons local police are putting together to fight crime without taking lives.

*Special Assignment: Shoot, Don't Kill aired Saturday, February 27, 1999 at 11 p.m. (Follow-up aired July 14, 1999 at 11 p.m.)*



You could say what Lt. Sid Heal does is look for new ways to keep cops from killing.

"If the only thing we have to solve problems is a hammer, we tend to think of every problem as a nail," Lt. Heal told CBS 2 News' Drew Griffin. "If the only way to solve problems is with lethal force, we think every problem

is a lethal force problem."

Heal and the police department are looking for solutions to those problems by trying new ways to take down a suspect without killing him.

"Lasers are probably going to be one of the big breakthroughs here," said Heal.

One of the newest devices is a dazzling laser that doesn't hurt the eyes but will temporarily blind a suspect. The laser is only a prototype. It has a lot of testing to go through before it hits the streets, said Griffin.

You might be surprised, however, to find out that one weapon is already out there. It looks like a grenade.

sign up



B = MEDIA

S = CBS

☐ Morning Headlines

☒ Noon News Headlines

☐ Drew's News

☐ Daily Quizzes

**More Newsletters**

Enter E-mail

Subscribe

already out there. It looks like a grenade.

"These are Sting Balls, said Heal.

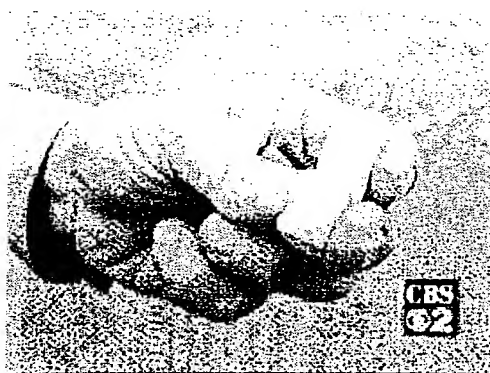
The small pellets it shouts out in all directions are made of rubber.

"It hurts a lot, it stings."

They hurt enough to put an end to a riot.

"The nickname for it is the Bladder Bullet," said Heal.

Before a deputy can fire it, it has to be put to the test at a firing range test center at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



"When the bullet strikes a target, it ruptures on a side a lot more aerodynamic," Heal said.

The Bladder Bullet is made of soft rubber filled with liquid. It's fired hard enough to hurt, but not hard enough to kill.

Heal is also testing Pepper Balls. The bullets are filled with a powder form of cayenne pepper. It's like pepper spray but shot from a gun, said Griffin. Pepper Balls can keep police from having to get near the suspect.

Police have even begun using new ways to deliver electrical charges.

The Sticky Shocker is fired from a gun. The wires immobilize anyone who is hit, sending an electrical pulse that lasts for about eight seconds.



Heal's special projects don't just focus on individual suspects. He also handles situations that involve mobs of people.

Trying to end a riot without hurting rioters has led inventors to the nose, said Griffin. And one product, packaged in a small container, has enough stink powder to end any group

gathering.

If police can find one or two ringleaders in an unruly crowd, they can tag them with this stinker.

"It'll make a maggot gag," said Heal.

The smell, a combination of rotten flesh, garlic and feces is so foul,

you simply can't be near it.

"We may not need to arrest an individual to get him to stop what he is doing," Heal said. "This stink is so bad that nobody is going to want to be around him."

But the point is "he" will still be around.

With Pepper Balls, Sticky Shockers, Bladder Bullets and smelly sprays, Heal and the sheriff's department are working to make sure more people walk away from police conflict.



"We are technologically starved. We need to have more alternatives than lethal force," Heal said.

#### July 14, 1999 Update:

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department is now field-testing a new non-lethal weapon in East Los Angeles. It's part of a growing arsenal of weapons this department is testing to keep suspects alive.

At the East LA station of the LASD, 30 deputies have been trained to use the pepper-ball guns. Instead of resorting to lethal force, these deputies will be able to hit suspects with rubber balls filled with Cayenne pepper dust in order to arrest them.

*Copyright 1999 by Channel 2000. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

#### highlights

Remeber Narnia? Take This Quiz

U.S. Revolutionary War Ended This Date In...

FanBall Update: Watch The Position Battles

Travel Deals: Hotels Cheaper With RoomSaver.Com

SPONSOR

QUIZ  
time

What playwright was married to Marilyn Monroe?

• ☐ Arthur Miller • ☐ Tennessee Williams • ☐ Eugene O'Neill • ☐ Lorraine Hansberry

Information about our privacy policy.

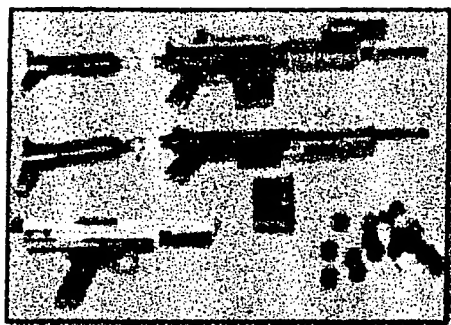
Entire Site © 1999, Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc.





## THIRTEEN LOCAL NEWS

December 9, 1999



JAYCUR PHOTOGRAPH

### Cops begin testing pepper guns

The weapons are made by a company in La Jolla. They fire balls full of pepper powder which can

temporarily disable a violent suspect.

● DAILY NEWS SUMMARY

COMPLETE STORY ►

ENTER TO WIN!

# "Ultimate Y2K Bug"



Local

LOCAL NEWS LOCAL WEATHER LOCAL SPORTS MORE CITIES WRITE US NEXT STORY

News  
Business  
Sports  
Local  
Health  
Technology  
Living Travel  
TV News  
Opinions  
Weather  
Shop@MSNBC  
MSN.com

## San Diego, CA

Station Home Page & More Local Information



JAYCOR PHOTOGRAPH

This photograph from the Jaycor Web site illustrates how the PepperBall guns can be used to disable an armed suspect from a distance.



Sally Sherry

## Cops begin testing pepper guns

SAN DIEGO, Dec. 8 - San Diego police began training Wednesday with a new weapon that could give them a non-lethal way to control crowds and violent criminals.

They're called PepperBall weapons, and they're like paintball rifles that launch small shells filled with a powder version of pepper spray. It works like pepper spray too, but officers can fire it from up to 50 feet away.

"It affects your ability to see, shuts your eyes down and your sinus cavities, makes them constrict a little bit so you think you're choking but you're really not," San Diego Police Sgt. Steven Margetts said.

The effects last for 15 to 30 minutes and make a violent suspect easier for police to handle. A La Jolla-based company called Jaycor designed the PepperBall weapons. Representatives refused to talk to us about them, but the company has published information about

the guns on their Web site.

The company says the weapons can fire up to 12 rounds per second and have a capacity of 85 rounds. It says the pepper guns are more effective than pepper spray because they can be fired from a distance and they combine the pepper irritant with kinetic impact. The San Diego Police and Sheriff's Departments say they will be putting those claims to the test.

"We're going to be testing distance, effectiveness, tactical considerations, when we can use it, when we can't use it, under what circumstances," Sgt. Margetts said.

More than 70 officers and deputies will train with the PepperBall weapons, and if they prove to be safe and effective they could become one of the weapons of choice in San Diego.

"If it can shut someone down from a distance and we don't have to get in close, that's good for the suspect, that's good for us," Sgt. Margetts said.

After initial testing and training, San Diego officers will take the PepperBall weapons out in the field for a three-month evaluation. They hope that will give them enough experience to decide whether the weapons should be added to the department arsenal.

---

#### MSNBC COVERAGE

**STORY** More San Diego Top Stories

**BBS** What do you think? Let us know on the NBC 7/39 Bulletin Board

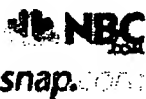
#### LINKS, SITES & MEDIA

MSNBC not responsible for contents of Internet links

**INTERNET** NBC 7/39 News Archives

---

● NEXT STORY →



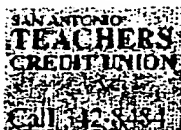
MSNBC is optimized for  
● Microsoft Internet Explorer  
● Windows Media Player

● MSNBC Terms,  
Conditions and  
Privacy © 1999

Cover | Quick News | News | Business | Sports | Local | Technology | Living & Travel | Health  
TV News | Opinions | Weather | Shop@MSNBC | MSN | Comics | Find | About MSNBC | Help | Index  
Cool Tools | Jobs | Write Us | Advertising on MSNBC | Y2K Statement | Terms, Conditions, and Privacy



Find \* Help \* Cool Tools \* Write Us



my sa.com

FROM KENS 5 AND THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

NE

News  
Sports  
Spurs  
Weather  
Business  
Lifestyle  
Classifieds  
Opinion  
Entertainment  
Lotto  
Shopping  
Video  
Community  
Obituaries

Express-News: Metro and State

## S.A. police corner the pepper market

By Sonja Garza

Express-News Staff Writer

They are semiautomatic. They can shoot six rounds per second. And they can be invaluable to a law officer trying to control an unruly suspect.

But they aren't firearms. They are nonlethal, air-powered guns that hurl projectiles filled with an eye-watering pepper powder at their targets.

They are called PepperBall launchers, and they are the San Antonio Police Department's newest crime-fighting weapon.

An adapted paintball gun, the semi-automatic launcher uses high-pressure air to shoot hard plastic balls at a rate of 350 to 380 feet per second.

Upon impact, the gumball-sized projectiles break open, releasing a cayenne pepper-based powder. Those exposed to the chemical agent develop watery eyes, involuntary closure of the eyes, coughing and temporary breathing problems.

Mike Tricker, a former law officer and trainer for the PepperBall guns, demonstrated the weapon at the police academy's firing range Monday.

Firing off several rounds, Tricker hit his target — Deputy Police Chief Steve Baum — mostly in the torso, sending a cloud of powder into the air.

Wearing a bulletproof vest, Baum felt the sting from an errant round that struck him in the neck. But aside from some bruising and abrasion, the officer was unhurt.

One of three officers who was "shot" Monday, Baum said the pepper spray didn't affect his eyes because he wore a mask. The impact, which he



Mike Tricker of Jaycor Inc. demonstrates a PepperBall launcher Monday at the San Antonio Police Department's training facility. The department has brought six of the guns for its Special Weapons and Tactics team.  
Photo by Kevin Geil

### Related Columnists

Metro  
Rick Casey  
[ Archives ]  
Cary Clack  
[ Archives ]  
Carlos Guerr  
[ Archives ]  
J. Michael P  
Roddy Stinson  
[ Archives ]

Nation/Politic  
Bruce David  
[ Archives ]  
Political Bri  
Gary Martin  
[ Archives ]

Express-New  
Robert Rivan  
[ Archives ]

### More News

Austin/Legis  
City/County  
Environment  
Family/Child  
Medical  
Public Safety  
Science  
South Texas  
Texas  
Then & Now  
Transportatic  
State Politics

### Special S

CrimeBase S  
ENigma  
Police Sites  
Web Newsst.

### Commun

Start a Group  
Message Bo  
Live Chat

### Contact U

Send press r  
story ideas to  
or fax them to  
3105.

### Commen

Send comme  
section to on  
Crystal Clear



B72

described as "significantly more than a paintball," was a different story.



"It obviously gets your attention," he said, sporting a bright red wound near his collarbone.

The projectile strikes with an impact of 8 to 10 foot-pounds, causing its target extreme pain without causing injury, Tricker said.

Police spokesman Sgt. Gabriel Trevino said the PepperBall guns give police another tool to use in the field when they don't feel deadly force is necessary.

The Police Department bought six SA200 PepperBall launchers, which cost \$378 each and will be used by its Special Weapons and Tactics team.

Aside from the physical effects of the pepper powder, Trevino said, the weapon has a psychological effect on suspects "because they don't know if they're getting shot."

SWAT Officer Mark Pointon also was a target of the nonlethal gun Monday, feeling its full force without the aid of a bulletproof vest.

"I knew what was coming so I was prepared for it," Pointon said, lifting up his shirt to reveal several nickel-sized welts on his stomach and chest. "But if somebody else just felt it, they would probably think they got shot."

Because the rounds are nonlethal, police officers have an intermediate option to disengage a suspect and take him into custody without risking injury to the officer or to the suspect, Tricker said.

Developed by Jaycor Tactical Systems, the PepperBall guns were introduced to police in December 1999. Today 380 law enforcement agencies across the country, including those in Houston, Harris County and Corpus Christi, use them.

One advantage of the launcher is it allows officers to deliver pepper spray to a hostile suspect from a safer distance. The guns allow officers to specifically target an area from up to 160 feet away, Tricker said.

"If you want to spray someone (with pepper spray), most officers have to get in to about 10 to 14 feet. You are able to deploy this from 30 feet out," Tricker said. Weighing about 3.5 pounds, the PepperBall launchers can hold 180 rounds in a hopper connected to the gun. Tricker said the guns are unlike shooting an actual firearm in that there is no recoil.

Officers on Monday were to undergo a six-hour training course to learn how to operate the weapons, Tricker said, and would be ready to use them in the field by Monday night.

---

## **CRIME WATCH**

---

### **Suspect can't elude copter's heat sensor**

SAN MARCOS — He had a great hiding spot — in a culvert and under some ice plant — and he might have eluded arrest.

Deputies who chased the suspected auto thief through back yards and over fences couldn't see him late Monday.

But a helicopter equipped with an infrared scope could.

The chase began a little after 11 p.m., when a sheriff's deputy spotted a red Honda Civic speed past him on westbound state Route 78, said sheriff's Sgt. Gary Floyd.

The Honda exited the freeway at Nordahl Road, briefly yielded to the deputy's flashing lights, but then sped off.

The car pulled over at Knob Hill Road and Glen Avon Drive, and the driver ran off, Floyd said. Deputies chased the man through yards and over chain-link fences, but couldn't catch him.

Two police dogs and a

sheriff's helicopter were called. The helicopter soon detected heat coming from a yard off Cheryl Lane. Deputies investigated, but saw nothing.

But the helicopter officers insisted the man was just a few feet away. Deputies on the ground kept searching the area and finally spotted a man's eye through the ice plant, Floyd said.

When the man refused to come out, deputies shot four pepper balls at him.

A 25-year-old San Marcos man was arrested on suspicion of auto theft, possessing stolen property and evading a peace officer.

— Elizabeth Fitzsimons



- ▶ SEARCH
- ▶ CONTACT US
- ▶ HELP
- ▶ SUBSCRIBE

**ALBUQUERQUE**  
New Mexico, U.S.A.  
April 2, 2001

## TRIB HOME

- ▶ NEWS
  - nat'l/world
  - washington
  - news links

- ▶ SPORTS
- ▶ BUSINESS
- ▶ ARTS
- ▶ SCIENCE/TECH
- ▶ HEALTH
- ▶ OPINIONS
- ▶ CLASSIFIEDS

## NEIGHBORS

- ▶ CHAT
- ▶ FOOD
- ▶ FORUMS
- ▶ NIE
- ▶ SCHOOL MENUS

## SITE TOOLS

- ▶ SEARCH
- ▶ SUBSCRIBE
- ▶ FREE UPDATES
  - subscribe
  - unsubscribe

## TRIB EXTRAS

- ▶ BALLOON FIESTA
- ▶ BIG-I
- ▶ L.ALAMOS FIRE
- ▶ HISPANIC CTR
- ▶ LEGISLATURE
- ▶ VIDEOS/SLIDES
  - john nichols
  - churro
- ▶ WEATHER

## ON THE WEB

For more information on PepperBalls, log onto the Web site.

## Deputies' new weapon has plenty of kick -- as in chile

By Joline Gutierrez Krueger  
Tribune reporter

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department is spicing up its arsenal of less-than-lethal weaponry with a hot new item.

PepperBalls, authorities say, could provide the perfect deterrent to heated confrontations, packing more firepower than an oral warning but far less than a bullet.

"It increases the chances of solving situations peacefully without using lethal force," sheriff's spokeswoman Michele Arviso Devlin said of the PepperBall system recently purchased by the county.

Sheriff's deputies currently carry pepper spray and have available beanbag weapons if they require them.

The PepperBalls are marble-sized plastic projectiles shot from hand-held, air-powered launchers and built to burst on impact. Once they do, they deliver both the punch of a beanbag round and the kick of *oleoresin capsicum* -- the same spicy ingredient that puts the fire in Tabasco and chile powder.

The Sheriff's Department purchased about 30 PepperBall systems to be used by SWAT officers and sergeants, who must undergo from eight to 16 hours of training to learn the technology, Devlin said.

The purchase is being paid out of the Sheriff's Department's budget, but the total cost was unavailable, Devlin said.

Each system costs \$373, said Craig Beery, vice president of marketing and sales for Jaycor Tactical Systems of San Diego, which has been manufacturing them for a little more than a year.

The impact feels like being hit with a paint ball, and PepperBalls can leave welts and bruises and occasionally break the skin, Beery said.

"It does not feel good," he said. "But the good news is that the hurt goes away. It doesn't create any permanent injuries."

It's the pepper powder that puts the wow in the weapon. Imagine immersing your nose, mouth and eyes in a vat of habañeros and you may have some idea of the crime-fighting condiment's effect.

"You get this burning sensation on your skin

and your eyes," Beery said. "You get the involuntary closure of the eyes. You can't breathe. You start to cough and sneeze. You gag. Hopefully, you realize quite quickly that whatever you're doing is not a good idea."

The symptoms last about 10 to 20 minutes -- enough time to subdue the most reluctant offender or disperse the most cantankerous of crowds without causing them undue harm, Beery said.

The balls can be launched at speeds that reach 350 to 380 feet per second and can hit targets at a distance of up to 30 feet, he said. They can also be fired from as far away as 100 feet to saturate an area, a useful feature for crowd dispersal.

Such was the case in 1999 when the PepperBall system got its first big national headlines -- quelling the masses during the World Trade Organization riots in Seattle.

The next year, some 9,000 protesters were dispersed from outside the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles when law enforcement agents there pelted them with PepperBalls.

The system's accuracy and the ability to control how much or how little of the peppery fire to spew makes the PepperBall system far more versatile than tear gas or pepper spray, Beery said.

"They are so accurate that you could shoot a knife out of somebody's hand with them," he said. And unlike beanbag rounds, they have never been known to break a rib or cause a death, nor do they have to be fired from the requisite 20 feet, Beery said.

PepperBalls are also more convenient than Taser stun guns, another popular less-than-lethal law enforcement weapon, because just one launcher can fire dozens of rounds, whereas a Taser can fire only once before it has to be readjusted, Beery said.

More than 350 law enforcement agencies use the PepperBall system, including the police departments of Seattle, Sacramento, Miami-Dade and Los Angeles and the San Diego sheriff's department, news reports indicate.

In New Mexico, nine agencies have either tested or now use pepper balls. Those include the Albuquerque Police Department, State Police and the police departments of Rio Rancho, Hobbs and Los Lunas, Beery said.

The Albuquerque Police Department does not use PepperBall devices on a regular basis and has no plans to do so, said Officer Beth Baland, the department's spokeswoman.

SEND THIS PAGE TO A FRIEND!

Enter an e-mail address:

Enter your name:

B76



Today's Forecast  
HIGH 52 LOW 35

WASHINGTON MUTUAL WANTS  
EXPERIENCE THE WORLD LIKE A MILLION

Search: 7 online find Local Movie Showtimes movies.com (enter zip) find ABC's ETV Enhanced Television

EYEWITNESS NEWS ACCU-WEATHER METRO TRAFFIC SPORTS

MoneyScope TECHNOLOGY HEALTH

## NYPD Testing New Nonlethal Pepper Weapon

(New York-AP, March 19, 2001) \_ The NYPD, criticized in the past for using force to subdue emotionally disturbed people, is trying out a nonlethal weapon that fires a plastic ball filled with pepper dust.



Over the weekend, 11 Emergency Service Unit trucks were outfitted with the PepperBall Launcher System. The \$375 device, which resembles a rifle, contains the irritant Oleoresin capsicum, which causes choking and coughing.

The NYPD joins a growing trend. Hundreds of police departments, including Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego, Detroit and Boston, have begun either testing the device or using it under certain circumstances, said Craig Beery, vice president for sales and training of Jaycor Tactical Systems, the San Diego-based manufacturer.

PepperBall, which made its debut in 1999 during the World Trade Organization riots in Seattle, is sold only to law enforcement or government agencies.

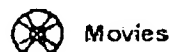
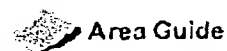
One of the unique aspects of PepperBall is that an officer does not have to hit a person with the plastic ball to subdue him.

"You could hit the street or surrounding wall and try to put this person in a cloud of pepper powder," Beery said. "Or, you could strike him in one of the no-target zones."

Officers using PepperBall are trained not to strike a person directly in the face, throat or eyes. Before the system is sold to an agency, one or more of that agency's officers must be certified as a PepperBall instructor; the certification takes about a day, Beery said.

The weapon can be accurately fired from up to 30 feet away, and the ball shatters on impact. People hit by the ball may be bruised, but the impact is not hard enough to knock anyone down.

The NYPD plans to use PepperBall only on emotionally disturbed people to eliminate the use of deadly force in these situations, said Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik.



situations, said Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik.

He added that he hopes the system will reduce injuries to officers and the person they are trying to subdue. However, police officers who believe that PepperBall has not worked in a situation will still have the option of using other methods, including firing their service weapons.

The NYPD has been criticized in the past for using deadly force on emotionally disturbed people, such as Gary "Gidone" Busch, who was fatally shot in August 1999 after he charged at police officers with a hammer.

**For More Information:**

- [Jaycor Tactical Systems](#)
- [NYPD](#)

(Copyright 2001 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)

---

[WABC Front Page](#)

[ABCNews.com](#) | [ABC.com](#) | [Movies.com](#) | [ESPN.com](#) | [Family.com](#)  
[Advertise on this site](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright ©2001 Walt Disney Internet Group, ABC Inc., WABC-TV  
Click here for [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy and Internet Safety Information](#) applicable to this site.

**DAILY  
NEWS**  
—online edition—

What is a hero?

HOME

NEWS &amp; VIEWS

City Beat

Headlines Index

Last 6 Days

Search/Archives

Shopping

Career

QUICK SEARCH

**City Beat****DAILY NEWS  
EXCLUSIVE**

## NYPD Begins Trial Test Of Pepper Rifle

By JOHN MARZULLI  
Daily News Police Bureau Chief

**S**ome cops are packin' pepper.

The NYPD is field testing a rifle that shoots a hard, plastic ball filled with pepper dust — a weapon police hope will help subdue emotionally disturbed people, the Daily News has learned.

The nonlethal projectile — which stings like the ammunition used in mock-war paintball games — can be accurately fired from up to 30 feet away, letting cops keep a safe distance from a potentially dangerous person.

"I think it will be a good tool to eliminate the use of deadly physical force," Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik told The News. "It will reduce injuries to cops and the emotionally disturbed person."

The PepperBall Launcher System was deployed Saturday in 11 Emergency Service Unit trucks throughout the city. It is already being used in several other big city police departments, including Seattle and San Diego, as well as in jails.

For years, the NYPD has grappled with the problem of taking emotionally disturbed persons — who are often armed with weapons — safely into custody.

In 1985, the fatal shooting of Eleanor Bumpurs, who was cooking lye on her stove and armed with a knife, led to the indictment of an officer on manslaughter charges. The officer was acquitted.

Other controversial shootings spurred the introduction of

PLA

TOURNAMENT  
FANTASY  
COLLEGE BASKETBALLWE  
\$1.5

brought to

MODE  
Cotton Co.

nonlethal devices, such as nets, plastic shields and lasers that deliver an electrical jolt.

The PepperBall system works on the same principal as pepper spray: When the irritant, oleoresin capsicum, is inhaled, it disables the target by causing choking and coughing. The ball shatters on impact, delivering the pepper in a powdery form rather than the liquid form used in the pepper spray canisters cops currently carry.

The impact of getting hit with the ball is similar to that of a paintball — 8 to 10 pounds of force. It causes pain and bruising, but is not hard enough to knock the person down.

The ESU cops have undergone several hours of training with the PepperBall Launcher. The NYPD pilot program calls for its use against emotionally disturbed people only.

"Any device that is less than lethal, and gives the officer a little more distance along the way, is what we're looking for," said Retired Lt. Frank Bolz, who founded the NYPD's hostage negotiation unit.

Original Publication Date: 3/19/01

What do you think? Post your comments on our [Forums](#).

[Quick Reference Menu](#)

#### Daily News Services

- ▶ Capital One Visa Platinum **9.9%**  APR NEW!
- ▶ 923 X 51 = Power  MATH IS POWER
- ▶ Shop at the [Daily News Store](#).

Click on any service and enjoy shopping online!



Back to Top



THINK YOU'RE AN ORGAN DONOR?

Get more info...

**Dennis Cole**

From: Dennis Cole [dcole1@home.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2001 3:57 AM

To: Dennis Cole

Subject: Pepper-ball gun gives police an option short of lethal weapons


 
**The Inquirer**

Search Today ▶

## Today's Inquirer

Home

Front Page

Sports

Metro ▶

Suburban

US &amp; World

Opinion

Business

Daily Magazine

Obituaries

Classifieds

Photo Frames

Previous 7 Days

of The Inquirer

## Weekly Sections

Books

Travel

Arts

Real Estate

Sunday Review

Automotive

Health &amp; Science

Food

Tech. Life

Home &amp; Design

Weekend

Sunday Magazine

## Special Sections

The 2000 Census

Survival 101

N.J. School

Report Card

Flights of Angels

Suburban Crime

Killing Pablo

2000 PSSA Scores

Intelligent

Investing

Katharine Drexel:

An Extraordinary

Life

Report Card on the

Schools

The Price of

**City & Region**

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

Go to: **S M T W T F S**[E-mail the story](#) | [Plain-text for printing](#)**Pepper-ball gun gives police an option short of lethal weapons****By Brian Woodward**  
INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

DOWNINGTOWN - When Police Chief Jim McGowan went shopping for his department's latest weapon a few weeks ago, he wanted something accurate and reliable.

What he didn't want was anything deadly. "We knew that this technology was out there," McGowan said yesterday, pointing across a makeshift firing range set up in the garage of the township's Public Works Department. "And we are pretty confident it will be highly effective."

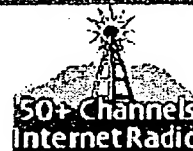
As if on cue, a spurt of rounds from the department's new PepperBall gun riddled a target mannequin by a dump truck, creating a white cloud of powder that hung near the dummy like a misty exclamation point.

The scene was part of the department's demonstration of the PepperBall SA200, a \$394 air rifle that fires hard-plastic balls filled with oleoresin capsicum, a powder similar to Mace. Since the gun was first introduced about a year ago, nearly two dozen departments in Pennsylvania and New Jersey have purchased the weapon to keep up with what police say is a national trend toward finding "less-than-lethal" ways of dealing with unruly suspects.

"Today's thinking is you can't just go from verbal force to blowing a guy away just because he doesn't do what you want him to do," said Craig Beery, vice president of sales and training for Jaycor Tactical Systems of San Diego, makers of the gun. "What was acceptable a number of years ago is just no longer acceptable."



Win a free



Inside philly.com  
[Phillies](#)  
[Eagles](#)  
[Flyers](#)  
[Sixers](#)  
[Money](#)

Looking for?  
[Archives](#)  
[Black History](#)  
[Campaign 2000](#)  
[Chats](#)  
[Comics](#)  
[The Daily News](#)  
[Death notices](#)  
[Flower Show](#)  
[Food \(Cooking Show\)](#)  
[Freebies](#)  
[Games](#)  
[Horoscope](#)  
[Kids \(Headbone Zone\)](#)  
[Law](#)  
[Lottery](#)  
[Miss America 2K](#)  
[Personals](#)

Winning  
Philly 101  
Beyond the Flames  
African Odyssey  
Philadelphia Murals  
Complete list  
of special sections  
Contacting  
The Inquirer  
The Newsroom  
Subscribe Online  
On Vacation?  
Delivery  
Complaints  
Inquirer Store

[Restaurants](#)  
[Travel Planner](#)  
[TV listings](#)  
[Weddings](#)  
[Zoo](#)  
[Education Guide](#)  
[More](#)

Enter the PepperBall gun, which is similar to its precursor, the paint-ball gun. At 33 inches and 3.5 pounds, the semiautomatic gun fires hard-plastic balls about the size of a large marble. The pellets are designed to explode on impact, spitting a cloud of peppery powder that burns the eyes and lungs, making it easier for police to move in.

Berry said that since his company introduced the gun in late 1999, about 312 police agencies in the country have begun using PepperBall guns. They were used at the World Trade Organization riots in Seattle and at the Democratic National Convention protests in Los Angeles in the summer. Beery said that other agencies, from the New York Police Department to the Coast Guard, would soon add them to their arsenals as well.

"We sold our first units to the Seattle Police Department before the WTO last year," Beery said. "The next month, we got 800 calls."

In Pennsylvania, Beery said, the guns have been purchased by 15 police agencies. Locally, the systems are being used by larger agencies such as the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, the University of Pennsylvania police department, and the Burlington and Camden County Departments of Corrections. PepperBall guns also have been purchased by Montgomery County police departments in Upper Dublin and West Conshohocken; in Boothwyn, Delaware County; and in Warrington, Newtown and Northampton Townships in Bucks County.

Most of these departments said they had used the PepperBall guns only during practice.

Mike Murphy, deputy chief at the 38-member Upper Dublin Police Department, said his department bought three guns in the summer when Jaycor presented the weapon to Philadelphia-area police departments before the Republican National Convention. Murphy said that the gun was ideally suited to some situations, but that often there was little time to deploy it in emergencies.

"Accessibility has been the one limitation," he said. "Most of the situations you get into are fairly fluid, and this is not going to be something you take out of your car every time you arrive on a scene."

Cpl. Jim Pauley of the Philadelphia Police Department, which has an estimated 7,100 officers, said that was one of the main reasons the department decided not to buy the gun last summer. He said the Philadelphia department would be hesitant to shoot any type of projectile into a crowd, particularly in a city situation where someone could be hit accidentally.

Last month, the Philadelphia Police Department placed 65 Tasers, guns that deliver a 50,000-volt electrical current via two darts shot from a handgunlike weapon, in supervisors' patrol cars. The tasers cause an electromuscular disruption that temporarily paralyzes anyone shot with it.





seattletimes.com

Classified Ads NWSource.com

Contact Us | Search Archive

## Local News

Monday, February 26, 2001, 01:30 a.m. Pacific

## Seattle's Mardi Gras gets ugly again



by Keiko Morris  
Seattle Times staff reporter

It's Mardi Gras, and people want to party.

In that respect, Seattle doesn't differ from most other cities where revelers indulge in the traditional excess before Ash Wednesday and Lent.

But that's where the similarities end. Unlike other places where Mardi Gras is celebrated without police in riot gear, Seattle's Pioneer Square saw a repeat performance of last year's chaos of pepper spray, stinger bullets and airborne objects early Saturday and yesterday mornings. Some people smashed store windows and looted, others pounded cars.



Harley Soltes / The Seattle Times  
Five windows at Song's Market on Second Avenue and Yesler Way were damaged early yesterday morning during Mardi Gras celebrations in Pioneer Square.

Last night, Seattle Police increased their Mardi Gras presence to more than 200 officers. They began ordering people to disperse at about 12:30 this morning, moving in formation to scatter the sparse crowd into small groups.

Many have their ideas about what caused the melees - people losing respect for the community and authority, antagonisms from the World Trade Organization protests of 1999 or just a few hellions looking for a fight - but no one is really sure why Seattle can't celebrate Mardi Gras without a battle in the



streets.

Mayor Paul Schell blamed it on out-of-town "hooligans."

"It's not about not having fun. It's about respect," said Schell, who made rounds yesterday afternoon with Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske, soliciting solutions from Pioneer Square residents and business owners. "It's not acceptable to break windows and damage property. We want a safe environment, and we want to carry on a tradition that has been going on for 23 years," Schell said.

For the most part, Saturday evening began peacefully, said Tina Bueche, coordinator of Fat Tuesday Inc. and owner of Ned's, a tavern. There was only one scheduled Mardi Gras event, a salsa competition at Juan Noriega's Old Timer's Café. Between 1,000 and 2,000 people filled Pioneer Square.

The mood flipped just before 1 a.m. when someone reported seeing a man waving a gun. Officers arrested the man but did not recover a gun, said police Sgt. Mike Brady. Shortly afterward, bottles and rocks were thrown at police and fireworks went off. Officers suited up in riot gear, ordered the crowd to disperse and began using their arsenal of pepper spray, pepper balls and stingers.

Four officers reported injuries, most of them minor except for a broken arm, said Pam McCammon, Seattle Police spokeswoman.

A woman was hit by a car and taken to Harborview Medical Center, but her condition wasn't known.

Some in the crowd smashed storefront windows, looted and tried to overturn a Metro bus. Police arrested six people on violations ranging from property damage and obstructing an officer to assault.

"This is a total mind-blower," Bueche said. "First, to have it this busy on a Friday and Saturday is unprecedented. And then this violent edge. It seems to have become a Seattle signature."

In earlier years, Seattle's Mardi Gras celebrations went through some tumult. More than 90 people and 30 officers were injured in a Pioneer Square riot in 1979. Many were arrested.

But the square's various clubs have also successfully hosted

crowds of Mardi Gras revelers for years with only minor, alcohol-fueled incidents.

Then last year, Fat Tuesday turned sour, with police in riot gear attempting to subdue a rowdy crowd hurling chunks of concrete and bottles at them.

Bueche and others can't explain why this weekend the crowds turned violent again. Saturday night, Bueche thought the party would end peacefully. Police were highly visible, milling about in regular uniform. Bare breasts elicited the usual cheers from the crowd. Then chaos erupted after police arrested the man who reportedly had pulled a gun.

Some people didn't know what was going on and may have viewed the arrest as excessive, Bueche guessed. Then the rocks started flying.

Instead of scaling back Seattle's few Mardi Gras events, Bueche suggested that more venues around the city offer events so partygoers aren't concentrated in Pioneer Square.

David Brunner, public-safety chairman of the Pioneer Square Community Council, is also baffled by the violent turn of events. He came outside around 12:30 a.m. yesterday and said he was horrified to find police in riot gear, the air misted with pepper spray and kids on scooters taunting police.

Brunner isn't sure that adding officers, greasing utility poles with vegetable oil and sweeping the streets of garbage cans is the best solution. Reeducating Mardi Gras revelers to self-enforce a certain civility, maybe cordoning off an "anything goes" area or adding other venues - Seattle Center, perhaps - could improve the situation, he suggested.

Most people come to Pioneer Square to have fun, but Brunner fears more troublemakers will flock to the area. "We've got this thing in Seattle that's very anti-establishment - the authorities vs. youth," he said. "It's disappointing that the hard edge Seattle has taken is fighting the establishment and not fighting social ills like poverty and homelessness."

*Keiko Morris' phone number is 206-464-3214. Her e-mail address is [kmorris@seattletimes.com](mailto:kmorris@seattletimes.com).*



**BEACH STANDOFF** San Diego police carried a man to shore at Tourmaline Surfing Park yesterday afternoon after authorities said he held them off with a knife. Beanbags and pepper balls were used to subdue the man in the ocean off Pacific Beach after the 90-minute standoff. Police said the man had been jumping in and out of traffic along Grand Avenue, then ran to the Tourmaline beach area and into the surf as officers chased him. Lifeguards evacuated the beach while police talked to the man. He was taken to a hospital for a mental evaluation. *Fred Greaves*

# The Record-Herald

And Indianola Tribune

Your community news source

Volume 110, No. 31 • 46 Pages, 5 Sections • 75 cents • Indianola, Iowa 50125 • Wednesday, January 31, 2001

## Spicing up crime fighting

*Pepperball  
weapon gives  
police option  
to deadly force*

**By Rob Daniel**

*Record-Herald Staff Writer*

The Indianola Police Department has a new weapon which officials hope will slow the bad guys down and not hurt them seriously.

The department recently purchased a pepperball launcher that it said will become another tool for its officers to use in dealing with difficult suspects. It is the first police department in Iowa to get the weapon. Officer Scott Dwyer, the department's certified instructor for the launcher, said.

As opposed to a standard paint ball launcher, the pepperball launcher uses compressed air to accurately fire projectiles containing OC powder or pepper spray. It's like "flying pepper dust," Dwyer said. "It can target a suspect very accurately, it lets you hit someone who is wearing an area with OC powder or OC spray."

The launcher is the first of its kind in the state. It was purchased by the Indianola Police Department after a grant from the Iowa Department of Corrections was awarded to the department. The launcher is a non-lethal weapon that can be used to subdue a suspect without causing serious injury.

**PEPPERBALL GUN**

The gun is a small, handheld device that can be used to subdue a suspect without causing serious injury.



Indianola Police Officer Scott Dwyer aims a pepperball launcher at his intended target. The launcher is the Indianola Police Department's newest non-lethal weapon.



Indianola Police Officer Scott Dwyer holds the department's new pepperball launcher. The launcher works much like a regular paint-ball gun, using compressed air to fire small projectiles filled with OC powder, or pepper spray. RHT photo/Jon Britton

# Pepperball shooter both inexpensive, non-lethal

## POLICE INCENTIVES

Continued from Page 1A

and where it might be used instead of the officer firing his pistol.

"We've had a couple of situations in the past where had officers used deadly force, it would've been justified," he said.

Bonnett pointed to the case of Richard Fridley of Indianola as an example. On Dec. 27, Fridley stood outside of his home on East Second Avenue and held a gun up at police and neighbors. He was taken down peacefully by police and charged with disorderly conduct and carrying a firearm as a felon.

Bonnett said in a situation like that, the pepperball launcher would have been used instead of deadly force. "He (Fridley) in particular has done this to us a couple of times," he said. "When you get into dangerous situations like that, I want every tool possible."

The effects of being shot with the weapon, Dwyer said, are minimal. The first effect is psychological, where the suspect knows he has been shot with something. "It's (the launcher) going to make a sound and when they're hit, they're going

"I can tell you firsthand it hurts like hell. It stings. It commonly leaves bruises, welts."

### Scott Dwyer

Indianola police officer on being struck with a projectile from the department's new pepperball gun

to know they're hit with something," he said.

The second effect is pain. "I can tell you firsthand it hurts like hell," Dwyer said. "It stings. It commonly leaves bruises, welts. The injuries are temporary, non-lethal and non-serious."

He added the launcher was even safe at point-blank range.

The final effect comes from the OC powder. Dwyer said the powder irritates the suspect's nasal membranes and eyes, and completely closes the eyes.

The effects, though, are minimal if it helps the officer contain the person, Dwyer said.

"The hope is it buys us enough

is not a replacement for deadly force, this is simply another option for our officers to use, what we hope it would accomplish is it would prevent the need to use deadly force."

Dwyer added that in a situation where the pepperball launcher would be used, another officer would be available nearby with a standard pistol ready for use.

The pepperball launcher was one of a few non-lethal options the Indianola Police Department had looked into, Dwyer said. Some police departments have begun using bean bag launchers to help officers contain people.

However, the pepperball launcher, with its \$176 price tag, was a better buy, Dwyer said. "It's relatively inexpensive," he said. "It's going to cause less injury to the subject than the bean bag round."

For now, the department has one weapon at its disposal. With only one day of training needed for an instructor, an officer can be certified quickly. "I can probably certify an officer in a couple of hours for its use," Dwyer said. "We'll have at least one officer that has access to

JV  
**Jenny Delroy**

---

**From:** COTrainer@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 13, 2001 4:47 PM  
**To:** cbeery@pepperball.com; dcole@pepperball.com; jdelroy@pepperball.com;  
kbuchholz@pepperball.com; kaser@juno.com; mscott@pepperball.com;  
mtricker@pepperball.com; sheilak@pepperball.com  
**Subject:** PepperBall News

Big MD P.D. Unveils Line of Nonlethal Tools

[Click Here For Photos:](#)

Dateline: Prince George's County, Maryland - 1/13/2001

Prince George's County police unveiled yesterday a line of nonlethal tools designed to subdue violent offenders while reducing the number of shootings and excessive force complaints.

Police Chief John S. Farrell, flanked by County Executive Wayne K. Curry and several commanding officers, outlined the advantages of the equipment, which includes guns that shoot pepper spray, a shotgun that releases bean bags at about 95 miles per hour and a strait jacket device used to restrain out-of-control suspects.

"Our officers today have a wide array of less-lethal-force options at their command -- options that they use daily and that have contributed significantly to the improvements our citizens are seeing," Farrell said.

Farrell pointed to the decline in shootings and excessive force complaints, which, he said, were at record lows last year. Prince George's police officers shot five suspects, two fatally, in 2000, down from nine in 1999. There were 39 registered complaints against police last year, down from 66 the year before, he said.

"The perception is that we have a police force that is out of hand time and time again," Farrell said. "But that's not the case. The numbers prove that."

Among those shot and fatally wounded by Prince George's police last year was Prince C. Jones, a Howard University student who was killed after an undercover narcotics detective trailed him through three jurisdictions.

Allegations of excessive force in that case and a number of others, as well as vocal outrage from the community, led the U.S. Justice Department to launch a broad top-to-bottom investigation of the police agency in November.

"We welcome the scrutiny," Curry (D) said. "We invited the Department of Justice to come and take a look. These new devices will certainly help change that perception."

"To the people of Prince George's County," Curry continued, "the very tangible result of this effort is that our families are safer, criminals are being taken off our streets with much less reliance on the use of lethal

force, and interaction between the general public and law enforcement has become a much more positive experience than at any time in the past."

Farrell said that each of the department's 1,420 officers has been trained to use the line of new tools and has been instructed to reach for them before reaching for their police-issued revolver.

To date, the WRAP system, a canvas device that is wrapped around the body of a violent offender, has been used eight times. Lt. Donald Frick said his squad used the equipment in Temple Hills last year to restrain a man high on acid.

Charles Mills, a retired officer who heads up one of the department's training divisions, said the pepperball guns were used five times in November, including an incident in which police were able to safely arrest a suspect who began to fight with the officers.

"We're trying to do a very difficult job and do it as humanely as possible," Farrell said, adding that each of the department's 50 squads is equipped with the new devices.

#### WASHINGTON POST

Photo: Prince Georges police Cpl. Alfonso Giscombe unstraps Cpl. Greg Sweitzer from the WRAP, a restraint system. (Mark Gail - The Washington Post)

1-9-01

## Freeway chase, standoff end in pepper barrage

By Pauline Repard  
STAFF WRITER

San Diego police blasted the car of a suspected hit-and-run driver with pepper balls last night after he stopped on a freeway ramp in Mission Valley, ending a 20-minute pursuit.

The driver surrendered quietly after sitting in his Ford Expedition for half an hour on the ramp from southbound Interstate 805 to eastbound Interstate 8.

Eugene Pebento Supnet, 29, of Mira Mesa, was taken into custody shortly after 9 p.m.

Police said he led them on a 70-mph pursuit up and down Interstate 15 in the rain, shooting sparks from a front tire flattened in the initial collision.

It began, said police Lt. Ernesto Salgado, when a woman reported that her vehicle had been hit by an Expedition in Mira Mesa, at Londonderry Avenue and Flanders Street. She followed it for a time through the neighborhood.

Officers saw the vehicle at 8:05 p.m. at Mira Mesa Boulevard and I-15 and followed it north on the freeway, Salgado said. The driver turned back south on the freeway at Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard.

With officers trailing in patrol cars and watching from a helicopter, the driver switched onto state Route 163, got off at Clairemont Mesa Boulevard and got back on Route 163 almost immediately. Then he merged onto I-805 and rolled to a slow stop on the I-8 offramp.

Officers blocked the ramp to other vehicles, and a California Highway Patrol officer tried to talk the driver into surrendering. At 9 p.m., a police SWAT officer broke the Expedition's back window and fired in several pepper balls, which have an effect similar to that of tear gas. A few minutes later the driver surrendered, Salgado said.

San Diego  
Union-Tribune  
January 9, 2001



FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2001 **A3**

SAMANTHA FELDMAN/TRIBUNE

**New weapon:** Gila River Indian police detective Romo Lewis displays a semiautomatic rifle that the department recently purchased. The weapon fires pepper pellets.

# Gila River police buy pepper guns

Nonlethal pellets burst, release disabling cloud of powder in air

BY TAMARA LEITNER  
TRIBUNE

In a push to use less lethal weapons, the Gila River Indian Community Police Department is arming itself with a gun that shoots pepper pellets.

"They look like M-16 rifles and when the pellets hit you, you hear the crack and feel the sting and think you've been shot," Gila River police Sgt. Kenneth Witkowski said. "Once the balls burst open, you're overcome by the pepper powder that goes into the air. It usually make guys drop down to their knees or give up."

But there is no reported lasting physical damage from the pellets.

The Gila River department purchased four guns for about \$800 each. It plans to have all 65 officers trained and using the PepperBall launchers within the month, firearms instructor detective Romo Lewis said.

"We want to save lives," Lewis said. "If we have the tools to do that, we will."

The launcher is powered by high-pressure air. The pellets explode on contact and emit oleoresin capicum, a pepper powder. The pepper cloud fills the air, causing the eyes to close, the skin to sting and the person to gag, said Craig Beery, vice president of sales training for Jaycor Tactical Systems, the San Diego manufacturer of the guns.

The pepper cloud essentially disables a person for 10 to 15 minutes so police can move in and make an apprehension. The spray affects every person differently. Depending on the person's mental state and alcohol consumption, the amount of time the spray will disable varies. In some cases, it may only take one pellet to disable a person; others could take three or four pellets, Lewis said.

"It's pretty highly effective, depending on the person," Lewis said.

The pellets contain the same pepper spray that police agencies have been carrying in hand-held canisters on their belts for nearly 30 years. But with the hand-held canisters, police must be within feet of their target.

The PepperBall launchers can hit a person up to 30 feet away or can fire into a crowd of people up to 100 feet away.

The officer can control the size of the pepper cloud that is sprayed. Each pellet emits a cloud about 2 to 3 feet wide.

Police anticipate that the gun will be ideal for hostage and barricade situations, or where a person is armed with a knife or other weapon.

In the last 11 months, Jaycor Tactical systems has outfitted 230 police agencies across the country with PepperBall launchers. So far, Gila River is the only East Valley police agency to use them.

Devoted completely to the people of Bowie

# The Bowie Blade-News

A Capital-Gazette Newspaper

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2001

## Armed robbers nabbed after standoff

### Two Lowe's employees hurt in dramatic holdup

By JENNIFER MARTIN  
Staff Writer

After a lengthy standoff with county police Sunday morning, two Bowie men were arrested and charged with armed robbery of the Lowe's home improvement warehouse in the Bowie Gateway Center. Sean Malone, 19, of the 4900 block of Reston Lane was apprehended on Route 197 at 8:25 a.m. Mark Henry, 20, of the 3100 block of Applan Way, was found and arrested a short time later.

Authorities are still searching for two other individuals believed to be linked to the robbery.

Shortly before 7 a.m., police believe a number of suspects — as many as four — entered the store, located at 1801 Heritage Blvd., surrounding employees. However, ac-

cording to a police spokesman, the suspects, one of which may have been an employee of Lowe's, may have hidden inside the store overnight.

While the robbery was taking place, an employee inside the store called police. One of the suspects, all of which were carrying cell phones and walkie-talkies, fired a shot into the ceiling.

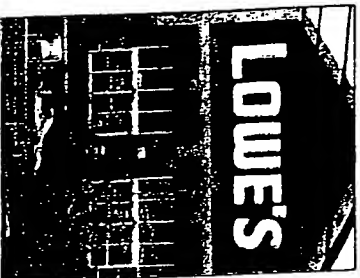
Two employees, a 20-year-old male and 40-year-old male, suffered superficial injuries during the attempt to apprehend the robbers. One of the men may have been grazed by a bullet, police said. Both of them were sent to the Bowie Health Center and released later in the day.

As police arrived on the scene they closed off routes 197 and 3, halting traffic until sometime after noon. Police found Malone running across the parking lot carrying an automatic handgun. The weapon, an Intratec-9, is "a small compact assault pistol that has a 20-round capacity," said Mike Miller, manager of D&S Firearms in Pointer Ridge.

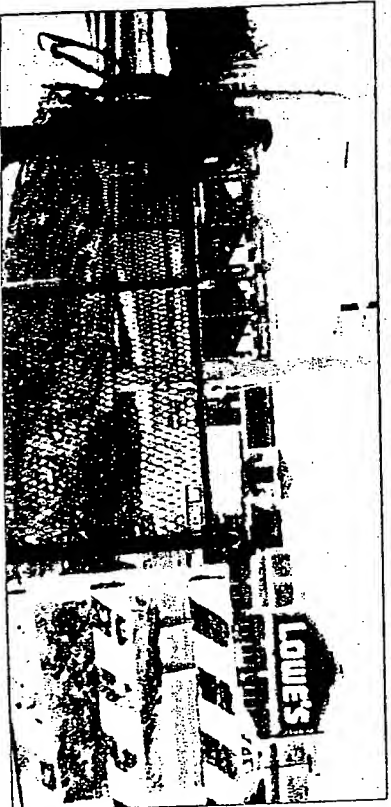
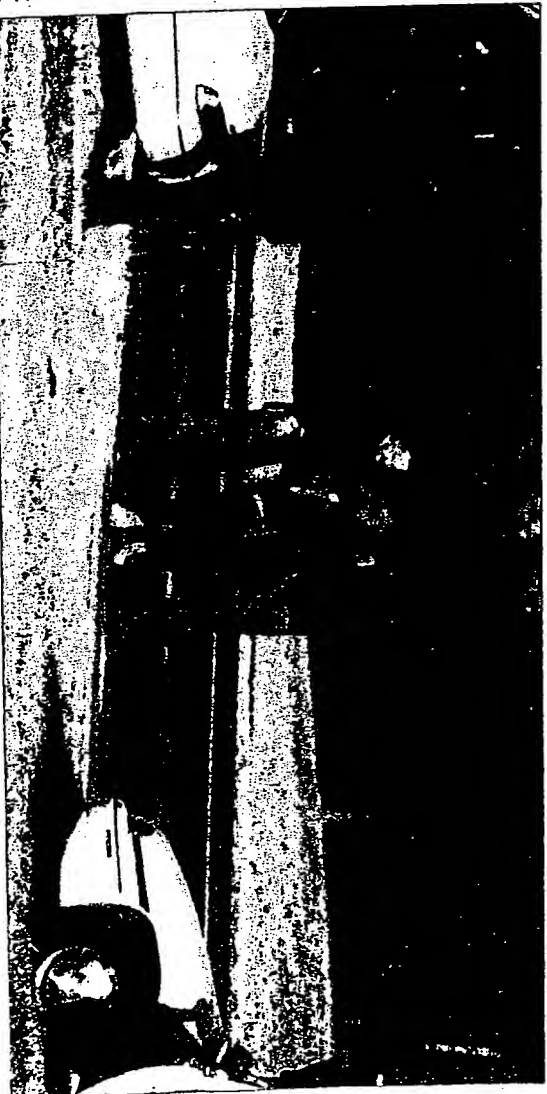
Miller said that the gun, which is no longer made, "was the preferred gun of the Miami drug dealer." The last time a Tec-9 was sold at D&S was October 1993.

When spotted, Malone kept police at bay by holding the gun to his head, threatening his own life. Police negotiators apprehended Malone after an hour. The other suspects ran from the scene with an undisclosed amount of money, although a source said that almost \$100,000 was taken.

(See ROBBERY, Page A2)



**LOWE'S POINT** — The Lowe's home improvement warehouse was robbed by four armed suspects during the early morning hours of New Year's Eve.



Blade-News photo by Sharon Terrell

**STANDOFF** — Prince George's County police officers (above) apprehended one of the four suspects who attempted to rob Lowe's home improvement warehouse Sunday morning. A second suspect was taken into custody hours later. At left, an armed county officer walks toward Mitchellville Road, securing the area surrounding the store. Many streets surrounding the Bowie Gateway Center were closed for several hours.

---

# ROBBERY

(Continued from Page A1)

During the incident police found a suspicious vehicle on Governor Bridge Road. Inside the vehicle, which was stolen, masks and weapons were recovered, a source said.

The incident did not go unnoticed by Bowie or Crofton residents, many of whom tried to use the roads, were informed to turn around, but not told why.

Iry Resnick, a resident of Audobon Lane, told the City Council Tuesday night that the city didn't give the residents any information about what was taking place. He explained that the media coverage was terrible, and that "no one knew where to go or what to do."

Resnick, vividly angered, said that the city is not prepared for a disaster and added, "Thank goodness the incident wasn't that bad." He added that television stations only aired one small bit on the incident and that "Bowie once again disappeared into the vast wasteland of nonexistence."

Much of the media information was wrong, Resnick said. "They got the street names wrong."

He questioned the council about a public information officer and asked if the person existed and was paid. Mayor Fred Robinson said that the position is intact.

"I thought the police handled the incident very well," said Robinson. "No shots were fired and I'm not uncomfortable with the situation although there was a substantial traffic backup."

---

The writer may be reached by e-mail  
at [jmartin@bladenews.com](mailto:jmartin@bladenews.com).

# New nonlethal weapon lets police force aim for safety



Police instructor Bucky Mills demonstrates the new PepperBall gun, which is basically a high powered paint ball gun that shoots specially designed balls packed with mace-like powder.

served retrieving a gun from his car during a domestic disturbance, was pelted with PepperBalls while he fled into his home. He emerged shortly after the powder took affect and surrendered to police. The gun turned out to be a toy.

Craig Beery, director of sales and training for San Diego-based Jaycor, said it takes an average of three to six rounds to subdue a suspect with PepperBall pellets.

The system is in use in about 200 agencies throughout the country, Beery said, and at least 300 uses of the system have been reported. None of them have resulted in fatalities.

"We have had plenty of scenarios happen in the country so far," Beery said, "in which police agencies have told us, 'Hey, if we didn't have PepperBall we would have had to have gone ahead and shot the guy.'"

The Prince George's County Police Department has developed a policy regarding the weapon that allows its use if a suspect is offering "defensive resistance" to arrest. This means, Mills said, that the use of PepperBall is not necessarily justified if a suspect merely refuses to comply with an officer's orders.

Officers are directed never to fire at the eyes, face or throat, and must also file a report after deploying the weapon.

The new weapon, however, does have some limitations. Heavy winter clothing could cushion the impact of the pellet round and may prevent it from breaking. Officers are therefore instructed to shoot at the legs of a suspect wearing a heavy coat. Rain or strong wind can also affect the potency of the powder.

And about 14 percent of the population are reportedly immune to oleoresin capicum - whether in the form of a powder or a spray.

"Is it 100 percent effective all the time - no," Mills said. "It's just another tool in the tool box to use."

A new type of pellet with the ability to break glass and another that contains liquid tear gas are expected in the near future.

"It really is effective in a tactical sense," said Cpl. Bill Buie, a department instructor.

Arthur Spitzer, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the Capitol Area, said he was not familiar with the new weapon. But the ACLU has been critical of the some police departments for their supposed reliance on pepper spray, he said, and said he hopes the launcher would only be used when necessary.

"It's all a question of the appropriate situation for using degrees of force," Spitzer said.

## Gun fires pellets of substance that stops suspects

by Greg Johnson  
Staff Writer

A suspect struck with a round from the SA 2000 PepperBall launcher first feels a sharp sting as the plastic ball slams into him at about 300 feet per second.

The impact causes the pellet to burst, ejecting the oleoresin capicum (OC) powder inside. This substance causes the suspect's eyes to tear and close, causes a burning sensation to flush over his face and chest, and can even make him feel that breathing is impossible. He may bend over, fall to his knees or drop to the ground altogether.

But he will be able to get up after the incident. And that is the important part.

The new weapon adopted by Prince George's County police could allow officers to apprehend some potentially dangerous suspects without resorting to deadly force.

"It's another tool, another option," said Bucky Mills, director of judgment training for the department. "The more options you have of (using) less (than) lethal force, you reduce the likelihood of having to shoot somebody. Though that can never be eliminated."

Training for the PepperBall launcher began last month and about 150 county officers are qualified to use the weapon. The launch-

er can accurately deliver a plastic round filled with OC powder from up to 30 feet away. Projectiles can reach a group of targets at a range of 100 feet.

The powder is almost as potent as the pepper spray currently used by county police officers and is about a thousand times more potent than the hottest hot pepper that can be bought over the counter. PepperBall launchers were used this year during demonstrations against the World Trade Organization in Seattle, Washington and the District.

Mills, who retired from the force after 25 years, said the Prince George's County Police Department considered acquiring the weapon after it was first introduced by Jaycor Tactical Systems last year.

"It usually takes a year to take things from an initial evaluation to getting things in the system," Mills said.

The Prince George's County Police Department has recently implemented several new programs designed to reduce potential injuries and fatalities. A wrap system, designed to safely restrain suspects resisting arrest, was introduced this summer. Canine training was also revised so that police dogs would bark at suspects rather than biting them. And a new weapon that fires bean bags instead of bullets is ex-

pected this spring.

The moves have come at a time when the department has drawn criticism regarding its law enforcement procedures. A federal investigation of the county's Canine Unit has recently been expanded to include the entire department. An unarmed Howard University student was killed by an undercover Prince George's County detective in Northern Virginia Sept. 1. And another officer was indicted Sept. 8 for voluntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a Lanham man last November.

Police Chief John S. Farrell said non-lethal weapons and techniques should improve safety conditions on both sides of law enforcement.

"The less (than) lethal force technology cannot necessarily be used every time," Farrell said. "But when there is an opportunity to use it, we are going to have the equipment available to help keep our officers and citizens safe."

Farrell said he has been satisfied with the performance of the new PepperBall launchers after three weeks on the street.

The department purchased 55 PepperBall launchers, and one officer on every patrol squad is assigned to carry the weapon. That means 10 launchers are on the street at any given moment. The department is considering doubling the number of weapons per squad if the program proves successful.

According to Mills, the weapon has been used seven times in actual situations. During one encounter, a suspect who refused to drop his knife was apprehended after being struck by several rounds of PepperBalls. Another man, who was ab-

**"Is it 100 percent effective all the time - no. It's just another tool in the tool box to use."**

- Bucky Mills, director of judgment training for Prince George's Police

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Online Edition

Sections

FRONT PAGE VALLEY & STATE SPORTS BUSINESS & MONEY SMART LIVING OPINIONS

CLASSIFIEDS | ADVERTISE | SUBSCRIBE | ARCHIVES | TALK BACK | HELP | REPUBLIC STORE | ABOUT US

en

SIGN  
SPEC  
VIA I

Site Search

VALLEY & STATE

EMAIL STORY

PRINT STORY

Val  
Sta

## Pepper-ball guns used

### for 1st time on teen

Police deployed a pepper-ball gun for the first time late Wednesday in subduing a 16-year-old boy who advanced on officers with a knife.

The boy dropped to his knees when struck by projectiles from the non-lethal air gun, allowing police to slap on handcuffs and take him into custody, said Sgt. Russ Scarborough, a police spokesman.

The incident occurred about 10:30 p.m. after a dispute in which the boy barricaded himself in a bathroom of his home in the 8500 block of West Cherry Hills Drive, Scarborough said.

The boy was booked into a juvenile detention center for aggravated assault.

Pepper guns, which Peoria police have been testing for six months, fire balls that contain oleoresin capsicum, an ingredient like fiery hot peppers.

May 18, 2001

B97



# THE PLAIN DEALER

## Kent clash brings 77 weekend arrests

05/07/01

By JOSEPH L. WAGNER

KENT - Calm prevailed yesterday at Kent State University following weekend clashes that resulted in 77 arrests and left municipal officials shaking their heads about the spreading rash of college violence.

Residents cleaned up debris from a post-final examination party that turned violent after a car was set on fire and exploded Saturday.

Close to 180 local police and state troopers, who had been keeping a watchful eye on the merriment, swept through Kent's Old Townhomes complex Saturday night and early yesterday firing marble-size pepper pellets, rubber bullets and tear gas into a crowd of about 2,000. Police said 54 were arrested overnight at the university, which brought the weekend total to 77. Some of those were still in jail last night facing felony charges.

Twelve people were treated at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna for minor cuts, scrapes and bruises, but hospital spokeswoman Tami-Lewis Hunt said it could not be determined if they were injured as the result of police action.

The owner of the fire-bombed car, Greg Dukarich, 24, a student resident of the apartment complex, mused about losing his 1992 Chevrolet Cavalier. "It had a bad muffler anyway," he said.

Also calm yesterday were the campuses of the University of Akron and Ohio State University in Columbus, where violence during May Day parties led to more than 200 arrests.

"This type of thing is going on across the country," said Kent Safety Director William Lillich. He said he and other city and college officials paid goodwill visits to residents of possible trouble spots in an effort to head off violence.

John Fender, 66, Kent's mayor and council president and a retired middle school principal, said he was disheartened that many students ignored his call to "be good neighbors."

While some witnesses accused police of provoking the conflict, others said police were restrained as they watched the huge party evolve to the point where fires were being set.

Students tried to keep the event peaceful. As some were trying to ignite Dukarich's car and some furniture, others were trying to douse the blazes, said Josh Dudeck, a KSU junior photo-journalism major.

Police action was swift. Angela Munson, 22, a nursing major, said she was enjoying a barbecue with friends when police suddenly "were everywhere and in riot gear."

She said she and her friends were ordered indoors and police "just riddled the house with [rubber]

bullets."

KSU student Jennifer Cox, 19, said she was watching the car fire and talking on a cell phone when police ordered her to leave. "Before I could even move, they sprayed me right in the eyes with pepper spray."

Safety Director Lillich said police acted with restraint and blamed students for the confrontation.

"There was clearly a portion of individuals intending to provoke an incident with the police."

Lillich said Kent's 42-member force was reinforced with police from up to 10 other communities and state police. He could not estimate the cost of the overtime.

Kent police said the arrests were for aggravated riot, a felony, and a range of misdemeanors.

Among those arrested were Plain Dealer photographer Gus Chan and correspondent Rachel Dissell, who were covering the campus violence. They were charged with failing to disperse and released on personal recognizance.

"I was really sorry to hear that," Lillich said about their arrests. He theorized that they may have just been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The Associated Press, Plain Dealer reporter Donna Robb and former Plain Dealer intern Rachel Dissell contributed to this report.

E-mail: [jwagner@plained.com](mailto:jwagner@plained.com) Phone: 216-999-4906

Copyright 2001 cleveland.com Online. All Rights Reserved.

899

# THE DAILY TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 2, 2001  
DAKOTA COUNTY  
MICHIGAN  
608-271-1111  
www.tribune.com

## Pepper guns bring police non-lethal force

By Michael P. McConnell  
Daily Tribune Staff Writer

**OAK PARK** — Police here are now outfitted with a new kind of non-lethal gun that fires pepper balls which break on impact and disburse an eye-watering, throat-choking cloud of vapor.

Law enforcement experts nationwide are embracing the PepperBall gun as a worthy tool to quell uncooperative suspects in situations where deadly force is not deemed necessary.

Oak Park police bought 10 of the

PepperBall guns two months ago for \$380 each, making them one of a only a handful of departments statewide to use them. Police in Huntington Woods and Clawson also have bought the special guns in recent months.

Oak Park Sgt. Christopher Martinelli instructs officers on how to use the new guns.

"This gun gives officers an option to using firearms," he said. "An officer can stand back up to 30 feet and shoot a suspect and incapacitate him."

The non-lethal projectile is about



Oak Park Police Sgt. Brent Hostutler displays one of the new pepper guns the department bought recently. Oak Park is one of only six police departments in the state to have the guns, which can subdue suspects without causing permanent injury.

the size of a gumball and travels at speeds of about 350 feet per second. Officers typically aim the gun so the ball strikes a suspect in the chest.

which in itself can cause incapacitating pain. The pepper balls sit in a hopper on top of the gun, which is

See CITNS, Page 4A



Oak Park police bought 10 of the

"The pepper-ball projectile is about

used to incapacitate a suspect in the vicinity,

Continued from Page 1A

powered with a high-pressure air cylinder.

Oak Park officers have not had to shoot a suspect since the early 1990s, when a man shot his girlfriend and her parents in a standoff with police.

Oak Park Lt. Steve Atkinson said the non-lethal weapon doesn't mean that police won't use traditional firearms.

"This gives the officer a choice when approaching a hostile suspect or a suicidal person who is armed with something other than a gun, like a baseball bat or a hammer," he said.

Oak Park officers used a pepper gun last month when a pit bull dog was loose in a back yard and unwilling to submit to the animal control officer.

"The dog wouldn't let the officers near," Martinehl said. "If we didn't have the PepperBall gun, we would have had to shoot it with a gun."

Oak Park Police Chief Robert Seifert decided to get the pepper guns last year after he first saw them at an International Association of Police Chiefs meeting in San Diego. Police there use the pepper guns and told Seifert they are effective, he said.

Jaycor Tactical Systems in San Diego makes the PepperBall gun and has sold them to 400 law enforcement agencies nationwide in the past 18 months, said Mike Tricker, a trainer for the company. The guns have been popular on the East and West coasts and in the Southwest in larger cities. Police in Seattle, Wash., used pepper balls to control protest riots there in 1999 during the World Trade Organization conference, Tricker said.

"The trend in law enforcement is to

use less lethal or non-lethal (weapons) because of public outcry," he said. "Law enforcement has been looking for an alternative in those situations where lethal force isn't necessary."

In Detroit last year, police drew heavy criticism when they shot and killed a man who they said threatened them with a rake.

"The PepperBall system is also an attractive option for police from a liability and officer safety perspective," Tricker added.

Huntington Woods police officer Todd Tyler persuaded his chief to buy two of the pepper guns in December after seeing them advertised in a magazine.

Tyler became an instructor and allowed himself to be shot in the chest with pepper balls.

"I was shot with it five times," he said. "It's like being hit in the chest with a 90 mph baseball condensed in a tiny ball."

The mist from the broken pepper balls caused his eyes to tear up.

Clawson police have not had a shooting incident with a suspect in two decades, but Chief Mike Walsh bought three of pepper guns for his department last month.

Walsh likes the new guns because they are accurate, easy to handle and "very effective," he said.

The use of traditional pepper spray has prevented injuries to suspects and officers alike, Walsh said.

"This new (gun) allows our officers to stand back even further from a suspect than when they use pepper spray," he said. "Anything we can use in our job to not get involved in hand-to-hand combat is good for the residents, the suspect and the officer."

# The Columbus Dispatch

## JAIL ARMOR, ATTIRE SHOWCASED AT TRADE EXPO

Wednesday, April 25, 2001  
NEWS 03B

Illustration: Photo

By **Bruce Cadwallader**  
*Dispatch Staff Reporter*

The displays of body armor and pepper-spray rifles are a tip that this is an unusual gathering at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

The American Jail Association brought 2,300 members to the city this week for a trade show and seminars, with Franklin County Sheriff Jim Karnes playing host.

"Training is the No. 1 reason we are here," said Stephen Ingley, executive director of the association, which is based in Maryland.

"Hollywood has not portrayed jailers in a very positive light. They are intelligent, highly educated communicators that have to be part correctional officer, part security chief, a counselor and substance-abuse expert."

In Franklin County, corrections officers are deputy sheriffs and have the same training as their fellow deputies who patrol the roads.

The association held 60 seminars on topics such as labor management, use of police dogs, prisoner health and behaviors, and managing vendor accounts.

Participants toured the Downtown jail this week, a point of pride for Karnes, who has battled with state inspectors for two years over jail inspection records.

Last rated at 100 percent compliant with jail standards in December, Karnes had criticized the state agency for inspections in 1999 that swayed from a reported 45 percent compliance to 97 percent compliance. Karnes convinced the state he was not given credit for major renovations under way at the time.

Scott Blough, administrator of the state's Bureau of Adult Detention Services, said Franklin County's jails will be inspected again in December. Blough and his staff of eight inspectors also attended the conference.

The trade expo is a popular spot to browse.

**PepperBalls**, paintball-style ammunition that can fire the debilitating chemical at a prisoner from 30 feet away, are drawing attention.

"These would have been very effective on campus last weekend," Jim Topham, a sales representative for Jaycor Tactical Systems, said of the disturbance near Ohio State University. The nonlethal balls explode on impact, surrounding the offender in a cloud of pepper gas.

Prisoner uniforms with black- and-white stripes are making a comeback, according to salespeople at Robinson Textiles.

"You arrest 'em and we dress em," is the company's slogan.

Other exhibitors offer body-armor, restraint devices, industrial plumbing fixtures and self-defense techniques.

One device on display is straight out of a James Bond movie. Iris- scanning camera equipment, rated 10 times more accurate for identifying prisoners than fingerprints, can be purchased for \$7,000, said James Hyfantis of Radian Inc. in Virginia.

Iris scans of prisoners can be mapped for 266 characteristics and then stored for accuracy. The scans can also be used to permit access to secure areas by jailers.

bcadwall@dispatch.com

**Caption:** (1) Jeff Hinckley / Dispatch

Jim Topham, a sales representative for Jaycor Tactical Systems, demonstrates how *PepperBalls* work by firing at a mannequin at the American Jailers Association trade show. The nonlethal balls explode on impact, surrounding the offender in a cloud of gas.

(2) James D. DeCamp / Dispatch

As part of a convention, Franklin County Deputy Richard Brazik leads a group of jailers on a tour of the Downtown jail.

---

[Back to Search Results](#)

---

All content herein is © 2001 The Columbus Dispatch and may not be republished without permission.